Man in drug trafficking case gets 51-month imprisonment. PAGE 2
CNMI sees first gas price drop in months. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 193
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

AP
President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with Pacific Islands Forum leaders during the U.S.-Pacific Islands Forum Summit in the East Room of the White House, Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, in Washington.

Biden tells Pacific islands leaders he hears warnings about climate change and will act

By AAMER MADHANI and WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday told leaders from the 18-member Pacific Islands Forum that he has heard their warnings about the impact of climate change on their region and that his administration is committed to helping them meet the challenge.

See BIDEN on Page 4

DFEMS firefighters form labor union

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pua

Firefighters with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services have formed a labor union under the overall chapter organization, International Association of Fire Fighters.

Fire Captain Paul B. Sasamoto will serve as the president of the Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters

See DFEMS on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
2

CPA board asked to hold off on appointing executive director

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Palacios-Apatang administration wants the current the Commonwealth Ports Authority board to hold off on filling the vacant executive director position pending the administration's appointment of new board members.

Apatang

In a letter addressed to current CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Lt. Gov. David Apatang has asked the board to hold off on appointing a new executive director and to allow the incoming board to appoint one instead.

See CPA on Page 4

'Rota's domestic airline, shipping issues need serious attention'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that domestic airline and shipping issues on Rota need to be given serious attention.

Manglona

Manglona, who chairs the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said Rota has many Commonwealth Ports Authority issues affecting residents that need to be resolved.

He said they have been without a representative on the CPA board of directors for more than a year now.

Barrie Toves resigned as a member of the board

See ROTA on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The Congress is starkly divided over very different paths to preventing a federal shutdown.
PAGE 12

ENVIRONMENT
Travelers encountered many weather surprises this summer, from wildfires in Europe to knee-deep mud at Burning Man.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Taylor Swift's trip to watch the Kansas City Chiefs' Travis Kelce play football on Sunday didn't just have the internet talking nonstop.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Man in drug trafficking case gets 51-month imprisonment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was recently convicted on drug trafficking charges has been sentenced to a 51-month imprisonment sentence.

Yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Li Bing, a man who was arrested back in January for attempting to smuggle methamphetamine into the CNMI through the United States Postal Service, to an imprisonment term of 51 years or about four years.

Upon his release from prison, Li will be placed on three years' probation and will be subjected to other release conditions.

Li was, however, given credit for eight months for time served. He has since been remanded back to United States Marshal Service custody so he can begin serving his sentence.

According to court documents, Li previously pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance—methamphetamine.

Li was arrested back in January for retrieving a package at the U.S. Post Office that contained crystal methamphetamine. He claimed, however, that he was actually expecting a package of sausages in the mail, not drugs.

Li was accused of possession with intent to distribute 1,048 gross grams of "meth," which was seized by the CNMI Customs and Biosecurity at the U.S Postal Service office.

The initial complaint against Li stated that during a routine inspection at the U.S Postal Service office in Chalan Kanoa last Jan. 26, Customs officers opened a package addressed to Li and in plain view was a white crystalized substance that later tested positive for methamphetamine.

Manglona

Following the inspection, Li was arrested and brought to the Drug Enforcement Administration office for further investigation.

At the DEA's office, federal DEA investigators interviewed Li about the package. According to Li, at around 11am on Jan. 26, he received a call from the USPS Office informing him he had a package that was ready for pick-up.

When he went to pick up the package, Li said he gave it to Customs officers, who opened it and found the crystalized substance, after which he was transported to the DEA.

Li told the investigators that he was not expecting a package, he did not know who sent it, and he did not know what the contents of the package was. He added that he had never been to the post office and that it was his first time.

However, investigators informed Li that Customs officers posted at the post office claimed to have seen him there about three weeks prior, to which Li replied he went to check if his package of sausages had arrived. This concluded the initial interview.

A few moments later, Li allegedly spoke with investigators again, claiming that he lied about the sausages.

He then allegedly stated that, back in December 2022, he was added to a social media chat group where he was instructed to send a photo of his passport and phone number and he would be expecting a package that he should not open. Li said he was told that after picking up the package and sending a photo, he would be sent a good amount of money.

Pizza Hut
Melts
MEAT LOVER'S®
ALMOST A HALF A POUND
OF MEAT AND CHEESE
PEPPERONI LOVER'S®
CHICKEN BACON PARMESAN
Additional charge for extra dipping sauce, no substitutions.
Pizza Hut
Stop by your NEWLY RENOVATED Pizza Hut at
GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL CENTER
DELIVERY & CARRYOUT • SAIPAN (670) 235-9333
16" EXTRA LARGE
Classic NEW YORK Style PIZZA
A Saipan Favorite
1 TOPPING
$13.99
CARRYOUT DEAL
Price higher for delivery. Additional charge for extra cheese and toppings.
2 Medium 1-Topping Pizzas
$21.99
Must purchase 2 Medium pizzas.
Additional charge for Pan, extra cheese and toppings.
LIMITED TIME OFFERS. Not available in some locations. Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials, delivery areas and charges may vary. Limited time only. Available at the participating Pizza Hut® Restaurant on Saipan. Products not exactly as shown. Delivery charges apply and do not include a gratuity. $15 minimum order for delivery. Limited delivery area. The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2023 Pizza Hut, LLC
USE THIS COUPON AT SAIPAN PIZZA HUT ONLY
FREE LARGE 1-TOPPING PIZZA
With Purchase of a LARGE Pizza at Menu Price
Pizza Hut
COUPON EXPIRES 10/30/23. AVAILABLE AT SAIPAN PIZZA HUT ONLY. SEE RESTAURANT FOR DETAILS. One coupon per person per purchase. Please mention coupon when ordering. Offer not good in combination with any other offer. Product not exactly as shown. Delivery charges apply and do not include a gratuity. $15 minimum order for delivery. Limited delivery area. The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2023 Pizza Hut, LLC

20-years in prison recommended for man in drug trafficking case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was arrested pursuant to a search warrant acquired by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency that later led to the discovery of a meth den at a local hotel is now facing a 20-year jail term after pleading guilty to the charges filed against him.

Assistant United States Attorney Albert S. Flores has filed a sentencing memorandum recommending that the District Court for the NMI sentence Qiu Shuo, also known as "Ike" to 240-month imprisonment or 20 years.

Qiu, who pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and illegal possession of a firearm, was arrested back in June 2022 pursuant to a search warrant acquired by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency that later led to the discovery of a meth den at a local hotel.

Flores noted in his sentencing memorandum that Qiu admitted to investigators that he receives shipments of methamphetamine via cargo ships from Hong Kong as well as from local suppliers on Saipan.

In addition, Flores said Qiu previously admitted that he is an active distributor of methamphetamine on the island of Saipan, more so than any other drug dealer on the island.

Qiu's sentencing is set for Sept. 29, before District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, back in June 2022, over 1.6 lbs of methamphetamine was uncovered in two rooms at the Hyatt Regency Saipan that was being rented by Qui.

Aside from the large quantity of meth found in his room, the DEA also found two handguns with ammunition, a large amount of cash, over 4,000 small ziplock baggies, and a few glass pipes with residue that tested positive for methamphetamine.

According to court documents, DEA special agent Kirk F. Johns said that a room on the sixth floor of Hyatt Regency Saipan had been under surveillance for a few months before they executed the search warrant on Jan. 12, 2022.

On that day, Wang Juhua, later identified as Qui's companion, was seen coming out of the hotel room before heading to the front desk where she

See 20-YEAR on Page 3

GPA recognizes CUC for helping after Mawar

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Power Authority presented Tuesday a certificate and resolution expressing recognition and gratitude to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for assisting GPA's restoration of the power distribution after Typhoon Mawar's devastation in Guam.

GPA assistant general manager of operations Jennifer Sablan also handed the same certificate and resolution to Pohnpei Utilities Corp. for providing post-Mawar recovery assistance to Guam, during the 30th Pacific Power Association Annual Conference And Trade Exhibition at the Crowne Plaza Resort's Hibiscus Room Tuesday morning.

Sablan said CUC and Pohnpei Utilities Corp. assisted GPA during post Mawar power restoration.

Sablan said last May 24 Typhoon Mawar made a landfall in Guam with sustained winds of approximately 150 miles per hour.

She said Mawar was the strongest to strike the island in at least two decades.

Sablan said the typhoon brought powerful winds and torrential rains, uprooting trees, damaging homes and businesses, and cutting electricity and access to water supply for most residents.

She said their mutual aid partner, CUC, answered Guam's call for assistance on June 4, 2023.

Sablan said CUC visiting crew of 12 linemen and groundmen assisted GPA's power recovery efforts and remained on the island until the job was completed, which lasted for two months.

Sablan said GPA's governing board, Consolidate Commission on Utilities, issued a resolution that recognizes and expresses appreciation to CUC, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and CUC acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje for their contributions to GPA in post Mawar restoration efforts.

GPA also offered a certificate of recognition to other top CUC officials.

Terlaje said when Mawar struck, they were ready to assist Guam, but unfortunately Rota was also hit by the typhoon so they had to take care of Rota before they could fly out and help GPA.

"But there was no hesitation. This is the partnership that we have and that's why like to date, this GPA partnership gets us through these difficult times," Terlaje said.

She said GPA helped and assisted the CNMI during Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and then during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

"Without GPA's help to CUC, [we] would not have recovered as quickly and as significantly," Terlaje said.

She said it was an opportunity for CUC to reciprocate the assistance that GPA and Guam have given to the CNMI.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje holds a certificate of recognition that the Guam Power Authority awarded to Terlaje and CUC for their contributions in assisting GPA in its post Typhoon Mawar recovery assistance, during the Pacific Power Association 30th Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Resort's Hibiscus Room yesterday morning. Also in the photo are acting governor David M. Apatang, extreme right, CUC director Rufo Mafnas, and GPA assistant general manager of operations Jennifer Sablan.

20-YEAR

From page 2

paid for another room on the third floor.

After paying for the rooms, Wang went back to the hotel room on the sixth floor. She was later observed leaving the room and was headed for the room on the third floor.

Sometime later, when Wang was seen headed back to the room on the sixth floor, DEA special agents and a CNMI Customs officer identified themselves and showed her their badges.

The DEA agent said that Wang, after officers followed her and attempted to enter the hotel room, tried to close the door on them.

After a short struggle, the officers got in and searched the room where they found Qui hiding in the bathroom. There, the officers placed Qui under arrest.

Following a pat down, Qui was found with two ziploc bags containing a white crystal-like substance that weighed approximately 5.7 grams. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamine.

In the same room, Johns said they found a Raven Arms .25 auto-pistol and five rounds of ammunition, a large amount of cash, and about 4,900 ziploc-style bags.

In addition, a U.S currency counting machine, two scales, a Western Union receipt, used glass pipes, and two cell phones were also found in the room.

Meanwhile, in the room on the third floor, agents seized a large amount of cash, a container with suspected methamphetamine residue, a glass pipe, a scale, and a cell phone.

When asked for the code to the room's safe, Qui initially lied about the code but after being threatened that Wang and his father, who was also staying in the room, would be placed under arrest, he gave the agents the right code.

In the safe, officers found 1.3 lbs of methamphetamine in three large ziploc bags, and an 8mm GAP handgun with three rounds of 9mm ammunition and 28 rounds of .25 auto ammunition.

CNMI sees first gas price drop in months

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of gradual increases, the CNMI has finally been given some relief in the form of a 10-cent decrease in fuel prices.

Late yesterday afternoon, the community of Saipan was treated to a 10-cent decrease in fuel prices courtesy of Mobil Oil Marianas. Although Shell Marianas had yet to drop their prices, they are expected to do so today.

With the recent decrease in gas prices, Mobil now charges $5.66 per gallon of Extra fuel from $5.76. Mobil also dropped its Supreme fuel from $6.21 to $6.11 per gallon while Deisel increased slightly from $6.18 to $6.23.

The recent drop in fuel prices came after a string of increases in the last few months.

The first increase was seen back on July 19, after more than two months of steady fuel prices, Mobil Oil Marianas broke the streak with a 15-cent increase.

With the increase, regular fuel went up from $5.11 per gallon to $5.26 per gallon.

Less than a week after, on July 25, Shell Marianas surprised the CNMI community when it took the lead in implementing a 10-cent increase that brought regular fuel prices up from $5.26 per gallon to $5.36.

Again, less than a week after, on Aug. 2, gas went up 15 cents. With the previous increase, fuel went up from $5.36 per gallon to $5.51.

Following the Aug. 2 increase, local oil companies raised their prices again in a little over two weeks by 5 cents with fuel increasing from $5.51 per gallon to $5.56.

After over a week, local oil companies raised its prices again by 10 cents with gas prices raising from $5.56 per gallon to $5.66.

Soon after, local oil companies raised their prices again by 10 cents bringing regular fuel up from $5.66 to $5.76 per gallon.

Japanese cruise expected to bring in over 4K visitors to CNMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority says the CNMI will welcome a 4,000-passenger cruise ship from Yokohama, Japan in January 2024.

Although the next few months is expected to be slow in terms of tourist arrivals from Japan, MVA remains optimistic that the numbers will pick back up especially in January with a 4,000-passenger cruise ship set to make a visit to Saipan and Guam.

According to MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, on Jan. 4, 2024, a nine-day Japanese cruise that starts off at Yokohama will be traveling to Guam and then Saipan and then back up to Yokohama.

The cruise is expected to leave Yokohama on Dec. 30, and will celebrate the New Year near the Northern Islands before coming down to Saipan and Guam.

"On Jan 4, the plan is for them to dock on Saipan harbor, exit the cruise ship from 7am to 5pm, for a full day of activities on Saipan. We have our MVA team and Tasi Tours handling the excursions to coordinate all the arrangements from transportation, shopping, and more," said Concepcion.

In addition, Concepcion said MVA will be promoting this cruise ship to other partners in hopes of getting the entire CNMI onboard in welcoming the influx of guests coming in on Jan 4.

"It's a 4,000-passenger cruise ship with 1,000 crew and they have already sold over 3,200 seats so it's a big number for a one-day visit so we are excited. This is going to really boost arrivals from Japan for the month of January. In addition, there will be other groups from Japan visiting the CNMI in October," said Concepcion.

Palacios enacts $1M re-appropriation local bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has enacted into law a local bill that seeks to re-appropriate $1 million that was originally appropriated for the Northern Marianas College but was not remitted to NMC.

Palacios notified Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) that he signed Saipan Local Bill No. 23-23, Draft 1, into Saipan Local Law No. 23-06.

Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and co-sponsored by several other members of the House of Representatives, the legislation was unanimously passed by the SNILD last Aug. 31.

Under the bill, $200,000 will be allocated to the SNILD for its operations, and $15,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority for its shuttle service for tourists.

Under the legislation, $200,000 will be re-appropriated to the Saipan Mayor's Office for its personnel/operations; $100,000 for Substance Abuse and Recovery on Saipan for its personnel/operations; $50,000 to Karidat Social Services for its personnel/operations on Saipan; and $50,000 to the Center for Living Independently for its personnel/operations.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BIDEN

From page 1

Pacific islands leaders gathered Monday for the start of a two-day Washington summit. Many have been critical of rich countries for not doing enough to control climate change despite being responsible for much of the problem, and for profiting from loans provided to vulnerable nations to mitigate the effects.

At the summit's start, Biden said his administration is requesting Congress approve $200 million in new assistance for the region, including financing to help the islands prepare for climate and natural hazards and improve infrastructure. Biden has put a premium on improving ties in the Pacific at a time of rising U.S. concern about China's growing military and economic influence.

"I want you to know I hear you, the people in the United States and around the world hear you," Biden told the leaders. "We hear your warnings of a rising sea and (that) they pose an existential threat to your nations. We hear your calls for reassurance that you never, never, never will lose your statehood, or membership of the U.N. as a result of a climate crisis. Today, the United States is making it clear that this is our position as well."

As part of the summit, the U.S. is formally establishing diplomatic relations with two South Pacific nations, the Cook Islands and Niue. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took part in separate signing ceremonies with Niue Premier Dalton Tagelagi and Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown to mark the new elevated relations.

"Today, we celebrate shared history, common values and people-to-people ties between our two nations, Tagelagi said at the Niue ceremony. "We have been looking forward to this day."

Brown welcomed the elevation of U.S. relations with the Cook Islands and said the U.S.-Pacific islands partnership could be an important tool for helping the region achieve its aspirations.

"These milestones celebrate areas of change and demonstrate that with unshakable resolve and leadership, remarkable achievements are possible," Brown said.

The forum includes Australia, the Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Kiribati signed onto a $29.1 million partnership with the U.S.-backed Millennium Corporation Challenge. The group will assist the island country with dozens of low-lying atolls and help boost its workforce.

Some of the leaders attended an NFL game in Baltimore on Sunday and visited a U.S. Coast Guard cutter in the city's harbor for a briefing on combating illegal fishing and other maritime issues. Biden announced Monday that later this year he would deploy a U.S. Coast Guard vessel to the region to collaborate and train with Pacific islands nations.

At last year's summit, the White House unveiled its Pacific strategy, an outline of its plan to assist the region's leaders on pressing issues like climate change, maritime security and protecting the region from overfishing. The administration pledged the U.S. would add $810 million in new aid for Pacific islands nations over the next decade, including $130 million on efforts to stymie the impacts of climate change.

DFEMS

From page 1

Union IAFF-Local 5335, according to a document obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get more information from Sasamoto and DFEMS Commissioner Juan A. Pua about the union and how many of them are members.

Sasamoto, in a letter dated Sept. 4, 2023 addressed to DFEMS' Pua, officially notified DFEMS that the NMPFU IAFF-Local 5355 is the sole and exclusive representative for all full-time employees who are bargaining unit members employed by DFEMS.

The Senate received a copy of Sasamoto's letter on Tuesday afternoon.

Sasamoto said NMPFU IAFF-Local 5335 will be submitting a letter that will initiate a collective bargaining agreement process between the union and DFEMS that pertains to labor and employee relations issues between firefighters who are collective bargaining unit members of NMPFU IAFF-Local 5335 and are employed by DFEMS.

Sasamoto said on behalf of CNMI DFEMS firefighters who are members of NMPFU IAFF-Local 5335, they thanked Pua for his professionalism and support of this "historical endeavor."

CPA

From page 1

"As you know, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and I recently appointed four persons to serve on the seven-member CPA board of directors, one of whom has been confirmed and sworn in. In the interim, we await the CNMI Senate's imminent confirmation of the additional three nominees. As you also know, two of the current board members currently serve terms which shall imminently lapse, during the next few weeks. Based on those circumstances, and to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for my new CPA appointees who will soon constitute a majority of the board overseeing CPA's lead administrative personnel, Gov. Palacios and I write to respectfully request that current board members refrain from selecting or hiring a CPA executive director and, instead, hold in abeyance that decision until the four new board members can themselves fully and independently review, assess, and then select the new executive director," said Apatang.

CPA's executive director position was vacated by Christopher Tenorio earlier this year after holding the position for many years.

CPA opened the position up for applicants back in August.

According to Apatang, it is only proper and reasonable that the new CPA board members have the opportunity to select and hire a new executive director they have themselves vetted so they are assured that the candidate shares their same vision so they can successfully implement and supervise the new board's objectives for improving CPA on behalf of the CNMI community.

"This is especially critical now as CPA is in fiscal crisis, and is developing immediate solutions to avert long term impacts. While the governor and I appreciate the current board's realization—in the weeks before several will depart CPA—that a new executive director must be highly qualified and soon retained, we are certain the best and most appropriate course will be for this decision to be left to the newly forthcoming board majority," said Apatang.

In addition, Apatang has also requested that present CPA vacancies in lead administrative/supervisory positions including the deputy executive director position, ports manager position, and supervisor slots remain unfilled until candidates for those vacancies be selected, assessed, and hired by those members who comprise the new CPA board.

CPA is set to hold a special personnel committee meeting tomorrow to discuss executive management positions within the agency.

ROTA

From page 1

representing Rota.

Manglona said as one of the elected officials from Rota, he is in support of a letter from Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

The senator was referring to acting governor Apatang's letter dated Sept. 25, 2023 to King-Hinds, requesting that the current CPA board refrain from selecting or hiring a CPA executive director, deputy executive director, ports manager, and other vacant lead administrative/supervisory positions.

Manglona said hopefully, their CPA representative can actively participate in the assessment/hiring process for these executive and supervisory positions.

Palacios recently appointed Steve King Mesngon to serve as member of the CPA board, representing Rota.

Palacios also recently appointed Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi to serve as a member of the CPA board, representing Tinian and Aguiguan. Kiyoshi will replace King-Hinds, whose term is expiring on October 24, 2023.

Jose C. Ayuyu was likewise recently appointed to serve as a member of the CPA board, representing Saipan and Northern Islands.

The Senate has yet to confirm the appointments of Mesngon, Kiyoshi, and Ayuyu.

JKPL thanks community partners for beautification efforts

JKPL

De Paul "Amu" Itibus from the Office of Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan) assists with cleanup efforts at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

JKPL

Juan C. Lizama from the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) does water blasting at the JKPL courtyard.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library humbly thanks the following individuals and organizations for assisting in the beautification efforts of the library's grounds: the Department of Corrections, DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres, DOC Outreach Division Sgt. Jeff Quitugua, DOC officer-in-charge Swaine Cangco, Juan C. Lizama from the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sablan, De Paul (Amu) Itibus from the Office of Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Castro.

Library director Erlinda C. Naputi shared, "We are incredibly grateful for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library beautification efforts conducted by the Department of Corrections and House of Representatives staff. Because of their hard work, our library grounds were bush cut, trimmed, and cleaned. Our walkways and the entire JKPL parking lot were water blasted. Thank you for extending this much needed beautification effort for our humble library," she said.

JKPL continues to invite and welcome partnership efforts from agencies such as yours to help assist us in our beautification efforts.

Trunk or Treat is coming up at the library on Oct. 31, 2023 and JKPL is expecting over 4,000 community members to visit.

"On behalf of Team JKPL, the Commonwealth Library Council and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library we thank you so much!" said Naputi.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting JKPL's website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of our activities, contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318.

JKPL welcomes and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credist. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit (ETC). Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

The JKPL hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-6pm; Friday, 1:30pm-7pm, and Saturday, 9:30am-4pm. JKPL is closed om Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays (Closed for JKPL Austerity on Sept. 30, 2023).

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-252496-OLS-22 and LS-253665-OLS-23. JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ***(PR)***

JKPL

De Paul"Amu" Itibus with JKPL director Erlinda Naputi.

ALTER CITY GROUP, INC.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Alter City Group, Inc. (the **"Company"**), a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation, has dissolved.

All creditors or other claimants against the Company are required to present their respective claims and demands in writing to the Company so that it can proceed to collect its assets, convey and dispose of its properties, satisfy and discharge its liabilities and obligations and do all other acts required to wind up its business affairs.

A person filing a claim must state description and basis of the claim, the relevant dates and the amount of the claim. A claim against the Company will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of this notice.

Claims must be presented to the Company addressed to: c/o Robert T. Torres, counsel for the Company at P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivery to his office in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

/s/
KIN IAN LEONG
Authorized Representative

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427/28 Fax. (670) 433-4428

Tinian Fuel Services, Inc. has an opening for:

ACCOUNTING CLERK (1)

DUTIES: Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store and analyze information.

QUALIFICATIONS: Four-year bachelor's degree major in management and accounting. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office). Required to have 24 months of work-related skills, experience, knowledge and work.

WORKSITE LOCATION: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: $11.21 to $14.00/Hour; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm; Overtime Available at 1.5 x base rate/hour; Frequency of Pay: Bi-Weekly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's compensation is provided.

CLOSING DATE: October 05, 2023

Interested applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at service@tinianservice.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427/28 Fax. (670) 433-4428

Tinian Fuel Services, Inc. has an opening for:

SALES MANAGER (1)

DUTIES: Direct and coordinate activities involving sales of products, services or other subjects of sale. Resolve customer complaints regarding sales and services. Review operational records and reports to project sales and determine profitability. Determine price schedule and discount rates. Monitor customer preferences to determine focus of sales efforts. Direct, coordinate, and review activities in sales and service accounting and record-keeping, and in receiving and shipping operations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Required to have bachelor's degree major in Accountancy with 24 months of work-related skills, experience, and knowledge. Required to have an occupation in Sales Managing. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office).

WORKSITE LOCATION: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: $16.70/Hour; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm; Overtime Available at 1.5 x base rate/hour; Frequency of Pay: Bi-Weekly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's compensation is provided.

CLOSING DATE: October 05, 2023

Interested applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at service@tinianservice.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

Chalan Kanoa Kiosku awarded all-solar power grant

Arising from their collective vision to be fully energized by non-fossilized power grid, the 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council has partnered with the offices of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang early in the year, and last week received a notice of award by the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs through the office of the governor's grants management.

By Christmas this year, the off-grid Kiosku facility project will see the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku taken completely off-grid, including the existing Kiosku parking facility and the Chalan Kanoa village's first children's playground proposed nearby.

The council has already partnered with IT&E on WiFi connectivity and ancillary communication facilities at the Kiosku courtyard.

The municipal leadership embraces the goals of the Interior Assistant Secretary Carmen Cantor's goals in enabling the territories to achieve sustainable energy strategies that contribute to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change; reduce fossilized fuel dependence; and curb the outflow of U.S. dollars by remote island territories expenditure on imported middle-eastern fossil fuels.

The council leadership praises the leadership of the governor and lt. governor as stewards of the environment and for their stewardship in taking the lead with the council in helping to reduce carbon release to the atmosphere that contribute to earth warming and climate change. citing in their support of the council to showcase the first fully solarized government facility and when completed be a prototype for the insular communities in the municipality of Saipan.

Earlier this month, the council also broke ground for the construction of the Saipan municipal complex that will house the local municipality council on the ground floor secured with provisions for additional load bearing capacity above the first floor to accommodate the municipality office of mayor, municipal treasury and others as funds become available for construction.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Office of Grants Management fiscal analyst Darsha Camacho, OGM grants specialist Maria DL Guerrero, 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council staff Donald Crisostimo, Council vice chair Tonie M. Tudela, council chair Marian DLG Tudela, and OGM director Epi Cabrera.

The council leadership shares the concern echoed recently by Deputy Assistant Secretary Keone Nakoa that "(e)nergy costs in the territories are among the highest in the nation," and praises the leadership of OIA Assistant Secretary Cantor for spearheading a mandated priority set by the Biden-Harris Administration "to help drive down the costs and promote cleaner energy options" that embraces that includes the far flung islands of the Marianas archipelago nearly 8,000 miles away from the D.C. Beltway.

By contributing to improvements in the alternative application of energy infrastructure and energy policy through energizing insular communities and territories energy program promoted by OIA in the remote insular territories in the Pacific, the council also promotes an overarching policy goal that is linked to the CNMI's strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan which would result in projected energy cost savings to end-users by the Saipan municipality public facilities led by the 17th council leadership.

Tudela said the leadership looks forward to taking the lead in fully implementing a small scale grid-tie rooftop solarized non-fossil fuel energy alternative at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku Leadership Courtyard as a cooperating collaborative partner with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang in the CNMI's "Energizing Insular Communities" (EIC) project.

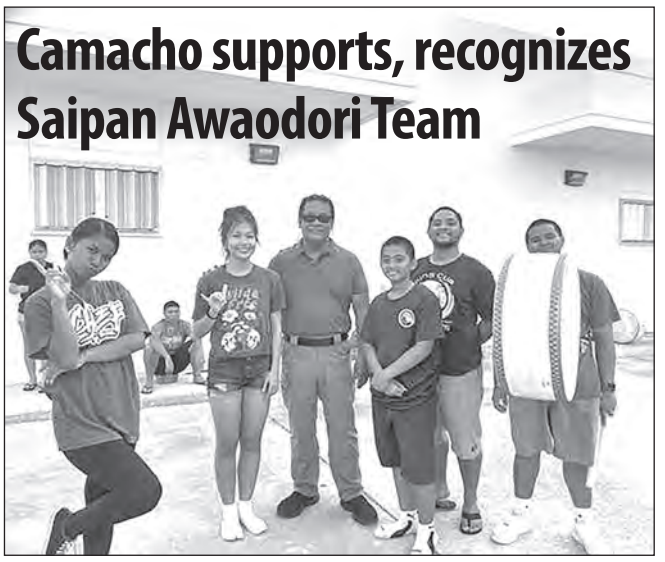
The council solar project includes solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system that features the PV installation of solar panel system at the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku, a model that is envisioned for application and replication at the new Municipality of Saipan Public Facilities next to the U.S. postal facility in Chalan Kanoa slated for completion next year.

The components of the Kiosku grid-tie solar energy system project includes design and engineering and construction of a 4.80KW (DC) solar energy system calibrated to reach an estimated 100% peak offset. When complete, the grid-tie system is set to change course of the current energy consumption at the Kiosku from fossil driven power grid to one that harvests the natural energy of the tropical sun 365 days a year.

Uniquely designed, the solar energy driven power aims to provide a life estimated for more than 20 years based on a design using a tier-one USA made solar energy equipment and balance of system material with the best industry warranties intended to stand the test of time, typhoon condition included, such as the recent Typhoon Yutu.

The solar system as envisioned comprises of 12 x 400 watt solar energy modules or a total output of an estimated 8,043kWh in year one with anticipated utility energy consumption offset of 100% in power consumption that will not have to be purchased, which permanently reduces the Kiosku's present fossil-dependent power use. ***(PR)***

Camacho supports, recognizes Saipan Awaodori Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, third from left, poses with some members of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho continues to be an avid supporter of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

Camacho continues to support and promote the Saipan Awaodori Team as they are an organization engaging with our youth.

The mayor believes in community groups and programs our youth can participate. Camacho believes programs such as these are a great alternative for our local youth to stay away from crime, drugs, and other harmful activities.

The Saipan Mayor's Office provides a venue for the Saipan Awaodori Team to practice such as the Koblerville Youth Center and the Sugar King Park.

A big part of the story of the Saipan Awaodori Team is Kinpachi Restaurant and its owner Misako Kamata.

Kamata founded the Saipan Awaodori Team in 2007. Since then, she has continued to invest in our local youth through the initiatives of this program.

Camacho also recognizes and congratulates Kinpachi Restaurant on its 43 years of service and business to the CNMI.

"We have endured many successes and challenges and I want to thank Miss Kamata for her continued support and endless commitment to the people of the CNMI," said Camacho.

For any questions or more information, please contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

Senate president presents McDonald's Arch Cards to Hopwood promotees

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and her staff pose with Hopwood Middle School student leaders (STUCO, NJSA, Speech and Debate, and Thespians), PTSA president Jerika Laniyo-Peter, PTSA vice president Mildred Ebuen, HMS principal Victorino Borja, vice principals Karen Manuel and Dr. Ben Seman, and HMS teacher Victoria Nishida.

The office of Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) presented 215 McDonald's Arch Cards to Hopwood Middle School students who were promoted to ninth grade on Aug. 11, 2023.

The Senate president with her staff visited the campus to personally distribute the gift cards to student leaders who were present during their visit.

All students from HMS who were promoted to ninth grade may come and pick up their McDonald's gift card during office hours from Monday to Friday at the school's main office.

The Senate president gave important advice to all the students present. She told them to dream big, study hard, be a good engineer or doctor or lawyer someday, and enjoy high school.

HMS eighth grade teacher Victoria Nishida, who coordinated with the distribution of the gift cards, said "Senator Edith Deleon Guerrero is very kind-hearted and amiable. Her office is always diligently working to give assistance and support to our students."

HMS PTSA president Jerika Laniyo-Peter and vice president Mildred Ebuen were also present during the distribution of the promotion gifts. ***(PR)***

2023 Toys for Tots Campaign kicks off in Guam and CNMI

DEDEDO, Guam—Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz is proud to announce the start of the 14th Toys for Tots campaign on Guam and seventh in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Marines from MCB Camp Blaz will deliver toy collection boxes to sites across Guam during the first week of October. Toy collection will conclude during the week of Dec. 4.

"As Marines, our mission is to serve and protect the nation," said Col. Ernest Govea, MCB Camp Blaz commanding officer. "Similarly, we extend our commitment to giving back to the communities we call home. We are very proud to lead the Toys for Tots campaign once again this year, and we stand ready alongside our community to ensure every child across the Marianas experiences the joy of the holiday season."

The Toys for Tots High School Challenge will also return this year supported by the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Committee. The challenge will begin Oct. 2 and end Dec. 1. Large schools with a population of more than 500 students will compete for a $1,000 cash prize. Small/Medium schools with a population of less than 500 students will compete for a $700 cash prize.

Last year 6,848 toys were collected on Guam, going to children in need and spreading a message of happiness and hope during the holiday season. At the conclusion of the campaign, a total of 11,075 toys were distributed throughout the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"With the various challenges our island has faced this year, support for residents in need is top of mind as the holiday season swiftly approaches," said Catherine Castro, President of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. "If your budget will allow for the purchase of a new and unwrapped toy to go towards a child in need, you will be offering joy to a young one who otherwise would not receive something special this Christmas. We know that times are hard, and we appreciate every gesture, big or small. The legacy you leave by contributing just one toy will leave behind a lasting impression not soon forgotten."

LANCE CPL GARRETT GILLESPIE

Members of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Matson, and U.S. Marines with Marine Corps. pose for a photo for the commencement of the 14th Annual Toys for Tots campaign at the Hilton Hotel, Guam, Sept. 27, 2023. Marines from MCB Camp Blaz will deliver toy collection boxes to sites across Guam during the first week of October.

The Toys for Tots campaign relies on widespread support and generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and communities. The 2023 campaign encourages everyone to get involved, whether through toy donations or serving at a donation location.

"We thank our community for its continued support of this most worthwhile program," said Castro. "Families with children in need are encouraged to contact Catholic Social Service and the Salvation Army to sign their children up in time for toy distribution the week before Christmas. Please feel free to contact us if there are questions about how to participate as a recipient of this year's program."

To participate and donate to Toys for Tots, bring a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of the many businesses or organizations who have volunteered to be drop-off locations. A list of locations and important dates will be posted by Oct. 6 at the Chamber's website at GuamChamber.com.gu; the MCB Camp Blaz Facebook page, @MCBcampblaz; or the MCB Camp Blaz Instagram page, @mcbcampblaz. For a list of locations on Saipan please contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or visit their Facebook page @SPNChamber. For more information about MCB Camp Blaz's Toys for Tots Campaign please contact Gunnery Sgt. Rubin Tan at (671) 362-7375 or email rubin.tan@usmc.mil. ***(PR)***

Labor, SBDC, Chamber collaborate to host compliance training for businesses

The CNMI Department of Labor, in partnership with the CNMI Small Business Development Center at Northern Marianas and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting a compliance training and outreach event aimed at assisting government and private employers, human resource, payroll, and accounting professionals to navigate through regulatory requirements and enhance compliance practices.

The training is scheduled to take place on Oct. 13, 2023 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The primary objective of this training is to empower the community with the knowledge and tools necessary to maintain compliance with pertinent labor laws and regulations.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts in the field, gaining insights into the latest compliance updates and best practices. Topics covered will include local and federal reporting requirements, familiarization of compliance forms such as the Total Workforce Listing & Manual, the Workforce Plan &

Manual, and the Form W-2CM, and guidance on filing instructions, submission, common errors, and tips.

"The primary purpose of the Department's outreach is to better educate employers in submitting compliance documents required by local and federal labor laws and regulations," said Eugene Tebuteb, director of Employment Services at the CNMI Department of Labor. "We understand that the compliance process is often arduous and time-consuming, so for the past several months we have come up with methods to improve our reporting system and its ease of use. Ultimately, we hope to increase the number of compliant employers operating in the CNMI. This compliance training is free and highly recommended for private sector employers who currently employ or seek to employ foreign, non-immigrant workers,"

"Part of the CNMI SBDC's mission is to promote business compliance practices through offering technical assistance at no-cost to our clients," said Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Network director at the CNMI Small Business Development Center. "As the leading experts in labor law and policy, we are grateful to the CNMI

DOL and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for this collaboration that will offer education and outreach to ensure regulatory requirements are being met by our businesses throughout the Commonwealth. We look forward to more partnership and training opportunities with our partners,"

Registration for the training is now open and interested parties are encouraged to secure their spots.

Event details

- Event Name: Compliance Training & Outreach
- Date: Friday, Oct. 13, 2023
- Time: Morning Session: 9am -11am
- Registration Link: marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019127
- Afternoon Session: 1pm -3pm
- Registration Link: marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019128
- Location: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network (CNMI SBDC) Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Northern Marianas College. ***(PR)***

Bank of Guam mourns passing of Eugenia Leon Guerrero

HAGATNA, Guam—It is with profound sorrow and heavy hearts that Bank of Guam announces the passing of Eugenia Calvo Aflague Leon Guerrero on Sept. 24, 2023, at the age of 93.

Mrs. Leon Guerrero is the beloved wife of the bank's late founder, Jesus S. Leon Guerrero. She is also the mother to past presidents Anthony and Lourdes Leon Guerrero, grandmother to current president and CEO Joaquin Cook and executive vice president and COO Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero, and matriarch to all who have become part of the Bank of Guam Familia over the years.

Leon Guerrero

In 1949, Eugenia married Jesus S. Leon Guerrero. This union would not only create a beautiful family but also serve as a cornerstone of support for her husband's ambitious endeavors and source of inspiration for her children, grandchildren, and the entire Bank of Guam Familia.

She was a remarkable woman whose compassion, love, and resilience have left a lasting mark on the hearts of all she touched. "Her life will continue to be a source of inspiration, guiding us all to continue to act with a sense of deep respect for our people as we make good on our commitment to create a brighter future for generations to come," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook and executive vice president and COO Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero.

Over the years, she championed many causes, dedicating time personally to uplift our community and care for our people.

In 1965, she became a founding member of the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association, affectionately known as "the Pink Ladies." Today, the association is made up of dedicated individuals who generously volunteer their time in support of the hospital's patients, staff, and visitors. And in 2005, the University of Guam dedicated the School of Business and Public Administration building in honor of Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero and their support of higher education.

As a company, Bank of Guam celebrates the legacy Mrs. Leon Guerrero helped to build, the leaders she raised, and lives she help make better—a legacy beyond service, but one of respect, fairness, compassion, and integrity.

As family, Bank of Guam bids farewell to their matriarch, who has touched the lives of so many through her love of community, generous heart, and playful spirit. She will be forever missed. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 193

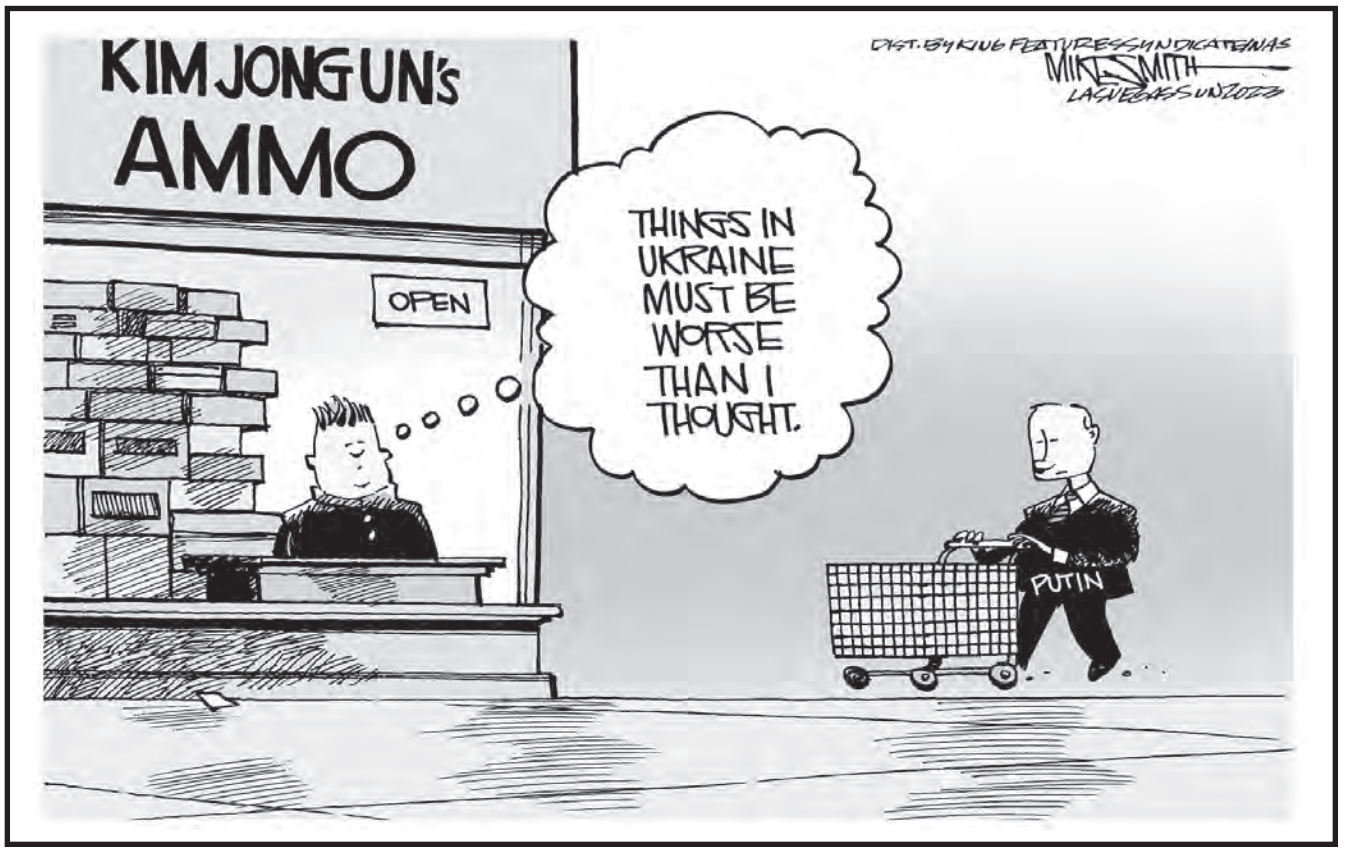
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Trump and DeSantis try to capitalize on a shutdown, though parks like Everglades will suffer

During the last government shutdown, for a record 35 days in 2018-2019, Everglades National Park was operated by volunteers.

Will that have to happen again?

As the country hurtles toward an increasingly likely federal government shutdown on Oct. 1, it's easy to think that this is all just Washington politics, partisan infighting with little bearing on real life. After all, both ex-President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis have chimed in, adding to the sense that it's part of the theatrics.

Trump said on his social-media platform Wednesday night that a shutdown is an opportunity to "defund these political prosecutions against me and other Patriots." And DeSantis also seems to want a shutdown. Politico reported last week that the governor said "I got your back. Keep fighting," as he spoke on the phone with several conservative members of the U.S House trying to push a shutdown if Democrats don't give in to far-right demands.

'All about me'

Both men have the same self-serving goal, of course—to boost their chances to win the Republican nomination for president. Trump, as is so often the case, is divorced from reality; federal prosecutions are unaffected by government shutdowns. DeSantis, meanwhile, has fallen so far in the polls that his encouragement to those who would shut down the government is worth less and less.

And neither candidates' posturing should distract us from the more important point: Trump and DeSantis are actively rooting for something that will harm a lot of regular people. They'll happily lead us into the abyss if it helps them claw for power.

A shutdown is a real hardship. If the federal government really does grind to a halt, the impacts will start small but build over time.

Federal employees won't be paid, yet essential workers like those in federal prisons will have to work anyway—without being paid. Agencies like the Transportation Security Administration and Customs and Border Protection would have their funding frozen, but many agents would likely be considered essential workers, working without pay.

Furloughed workers receive their pay, eventually. That's not much help if your mortgage is due now. During the 2019 shutdown—under then-President Trump—TSA agents called out sick in large numbers, causing travel delays and massive lines at security checkpoints. No wonder.

As U.S Rep Jared Moskowitz, a Democrat from Florida who worked for DeSantis, told Politico: "This is really going to hurt the American people. And oh, by the way, it's going to cost us billions of dollars."

Park in peril

In South Florida, beloved Everglades National Park would be affected. In 2018, as trash piled up in many national parks across

See TRUMP on Page 9

The House Republicans' shutdown politics are dumb and dumber

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

For years, I stalked the Capitol halls amid Congress' fiscal-year-end follies, waiting with other reporters for a breakthrough to end the latest faux crisis. I'm hard-pressed to recall a budget fight so politically self-defeating as the one now cleaving the House—waged for stupid reasons by stupid people.

And lest that sound too harsh, I defer to New York Rep. Mike Lawler, speaking to reporters about his fellow Republicans who've provoked the current chaos: "This is stupidity," Lawler said. "It's a clown show," he added, the inevitable result of "running lunatics" for Congress.

Yup, the lunatics are fully in charge of Kevin McCarthy's asylum, a.k.a. the House of Representatives. Speaker McCarthy most definitely is not in control, so Congress is careening toward an almost-certain government shutdown at the end of next week. He's in a box, in fact, with no way out that doesn't risk his being cashiered as speaker in a right-wing putsch.

Even if he survives, McCarthy could well forfeit the speakership after the 2024 elections: House Republicans' MAGA mayhem and extremism (Impeach Joe Biden! Culture wars!) threaten to cost them the thin majority they won only last year.

You'd think they'd learn from the example of Senate Republicans, who've provided a contrast of pragmatism and relative moderation. (OK, there is Alabama's Sen. Tommy "Coach" Tuberville, the one-man national security threat.) The same political analysts now downgrading House Republicans' election chances have Senate Republicans favored to move from a minority to the majority in '24.

McCarthy tries to use the fact that his majority is at risk—that either House Republicans hang together or too many of them will hang separately—to corral the crackpots. But there's no reasoning with the unreasonable.

There's no appealing for unity with narcissistic ideologues, such as Florida's Rep. Matt Gaetz, who are more concerned about their own MAGA fandom and Fox News hits than about the country or their vulnerable party colleagues in swing districts.

Take it from the frustrated conservatives behind the Wall Street Journal's editorial page: "Too many Republicans apparently come to Washington these days mainly to blow things up and count their TikTok followers."

The House Republicans' worsening 2024 prospects are the party's longer-term worry. Here's McCarthy's immediate dilemma: Given the nihilists' knee-jerk opposition to just about any spending, he will ultimately need Democrats' votes to help pass government-funding legislation that is acceptable to the Senate and President Biden.

As it stands, he can't muster enough Republican votes to pass even a 30-day stopgap measure to keep federal operations funded past Sept. 30, when current spending ends with the fiscal year. Such measures typically have been relatively uncontroversial in budget wrestling matches, allowing negotiations to continue without a shutdown.

But compromising to get Democrats' votes is anathema to the extremists: They've vowed to force a vote dethroning McCarthy should he do so.

Poor Kevin. If he doesn't make deals with Democrats, he and his party will be blamed for a shutdown—and for all the late federal payments, lapsed services, disrupted public works and closed federal offices that result. But if he cuts a deal, he could very well be toast as speaker. Don't feel sorry for him, however. McCarthy sold his soul for his dream job, and to the very mutineers now seeking to sink him.

They're bound to lose in the end. The government must carry on, and the president, the saner Senate and, yes, some bipartisan configuration of House members ultimately will see that it does, however long that takes. You'd think the House renegades would care that they look stupid. The legislative dynamic here is so basic—"so Civics 101," as the Journal editorial noted—and yet some of these House Republicans just can't seem to grasp it.

Think about it: The extremists won't let Congress simply buy the time needed to reach a final agreement. They want to have the fights now—with just a week to go before midnight, Sept. 30—over program spending levels and divisive amendments about Ukraine aid, abortion rights and immigration. Which makes a shutdown virtually inevitable.

The extremists seem to believe they have unlimited legislative leverage to force their far-right demands into law. They don't. The naysayers' moronic efforts were captured by this headline in Politico: "House GOP in open warfare over doomed spending plan." Let's say they somehow managed to prevail on their home turf of the House, they'd be stopped cold by Senate Democrats, backed by some Republican senators, and the veto-wielding Biden.

Perhaps they could take a refresher class on "How a bill becomes law." Or watch the classic "Schoolhouse Rock!" video sing-along version. Or simply go to the House's own website, where the clerk has a nifty primer for grade-school students.

Never mind. The naysayers don't care if they fail: In today's Trumpian Republican Party, it's all about the fight, all about "owning the libs." It's not like the extremists will pay a price for their intransigence. They generally reflect the combativeness of Republican voters in their safe, gerrymandered districts, who are likewise spoiling to tear Washington apart, no matter how destructive that is.

What's unfortunate is that the Republicans who could well lose next year are among the party's more rational members, the ones from swing districts, where voters recoil at Republican extremism. Because they're not stupid.

60 isn't the new 40 and that's fine by me

By MARY MCNAMARA
Los Angeles Times

I just turned 60, which seems, in equal measure, simply impossible and no big deal.

No matter how you look at it, 60 is a big number—10 more push-ups than anyone should ever be asked to d — situated inarguably on the back end of even the modern female lifespan. I could continue to call myself middle-aged, but even if it were possible, do I want to live to be 120? No, I do not.

But honestly, how can I be 60 when I still don't know how to apply foundation or fold a fitted sheet? When my idea of a perfect meal is graham crackers and peanut butter, and my notion of "tidying" is putting the books that cover every surface of my home into a stack and calling it a day?

I am grateful to be alive, especially after a pandemic, but I certainly don't feel wiser, calmer, more at ease with myself or any of the other wonderful feelings others have documented as they enter their seventh decade.

Nor do I feel lonely, more afraid of death or out of touch with popular culture or digital technology. Having two young adults and one teenager certainly helps—not only do they force me to at least try to keep up with music and TikTok trends, it's tough to feel near death when your children regularly address you as "bruh," "girl," "queen" or the endearment form of "b—" (almost always followed by an immediate "oh, sorry Mom").

If I have to occasionally Google their latest form of slang; I do know how to use my smartphone, including (and for the record) how to turn the flashlight off.

OK, I only use one thumb while texting and sometimes take what is considered "too long" to use the search function of the Fire TV Stick, but I also know how to write an actual check and use postage stamps and I'm, apparently, the only one in our family who can access all our various passwords.

Sure, I've got a knee that acts up, but that thing has been acting up since I dislocated my knee cap while drunkenly dancing at a college party (don't ask). And, of course, I'm tired—we're all tired—but not as tired as I was when I had two young children in my late 30s or an infant and two only slightly older kids in my early 40s.

I would like to think I am now old enough to blithely cut in line as I have admiringly watched old ladies do all my life, but my children assure me, in horrified embarrassment, that I am not.

The only thing that has really changed is the nature of the ads popping up on my digital media platforms. How many times a day do these algorithms think I need to be persuaded that 60 is the new 40 while being offered miracle cures for crepey skin, age spots and, my personal favorite, apron belly? I wish I could say I am unfamiliar with these conditions but even so, I don't appreciate being promised that the "secret" to tightening aging skin or reversing menopausal weight gain is a mere click away.

Sixty is not the new stupid.

Having lived life with a thousand freckles, I know skin is going to do whatever the hell it wants to do and when I recently decided I had gotten a bit too fat, I managed to lose weight by employing the breakthrough diet of staying away from sugar and eating less.

Menopause certainly causes some startling weight redistribution—sometimes I swear I could see the fat fleeing my thighs and butt for the warmer climes of my midsection. But in my case, the gain was the direct result of a conscious decision: If I had to endure the nightmare of migraines, heart palpitations, hot flashes and insomnia, then I was definitely entitled to eat cinnamon buns whenever I felt like it and at least three Snickers Minis at bedtime.

I mean, that's just science.

As for 60 being the new 40, this is numerically absurd. There is not enough Spanx in the world to compress two decades into nothingness. I own each and every year I have lived on this planet, even those I would rather not remember. Especially those I would rather not remember.

Anyway it's not so much that 60 is the new 40, as it is that 60 is finally allowed to be just 60. Especially for women.

I grew up at a time when women who were not, say, 27 or younger, did not "admit" their age because age was a sword of judgment. Forty was bad, 50 was worse and 60, well, that was considered instantly and irrevocably old. At 60, women were expected to resign themselves to getting nothing but talcum powder and soap sets for their birthdays and watching everyone else have all the fun.

Those who were vocally opinionated could choose between being considered cantankerous or formidable. The rest were assigned some version of grandma. Even those who were not actual grandmothers.

There were exceptions, of course, there are always exceptions, but culturally, at 60, women were expected to fade—into caricature, into caretaking or just into the background.

Everywhere women looked in popular culture, this assumption was drastically underlined. Irene Ryan was 60 when she began playing Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies" and if there was an older-appearing character in the history of television, that character was a zombie.

Years later, "The Golden Girls," a show which traded on the radical notion that older women had lives too, defined "older" mostly as late 40s and early to mid 50s. (Estelle Getty was 62 when the show began, playing 79.) Male actors could play romantic leads well into their 70s but throughout much of film history, most 50-plus female actors were consigned to playing someone's grandmother or crazy great aunt—Bette Davis was 54 when she starred in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" That's four years younger than Sarah Jessica Parker, currently resurrecting Carrie Bradshaw in "And Just Like That."

As a woman who never had to fight for the right to vote, attend college, procure legal birth control or enter my chosen profession, I am grateful on a daily basis for those brave, brilliant, stubborn women who did the hard work for me. And now I feel the same way about 60.

These days no one would suggest that Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who is 62, could only play grannies any more than they would say that Tom Cruise, 61, should stop parachuting off cliffs. The 21st century version of "The Golden Girls" is "Grace and Frankie," starring Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, who are both in their 80s. The cutest TV couple of the year, hands down, is Meryl Streep, 74, and Martin Short, 73, on "Only Murders in the Building." The indefatigable Dolly Parton and Debbie Allen are 73; Oprah Winfrey is 69; Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton are 62; Michelle Yeoh is 61; and Vanessa Williams and Lisa Kudrow joined me in turning the big 6-0 this year.

Yeah, that's right, I'm the same age as Vanessa Williams. I will show you my driver's license.

That is just an abbreviated list, and outside Hollywood, the examples of women defying the traditional definitions of "old" are even more numerous. Credit baby boomers, feminism, the fitness movement, Eileen Fisher or even the rise in Botox and cosmetic surgery; 60 is no longer the beginning of the end.

Certainly credit all the women who refused to accept 60, or 70, or 80 as anything but a number.

Ageism still exists, of course, but at least now it has a name (as opposed to, you know, "life") and, in some cases, the hope of legal recourse. The lack of financial safety nets, including retirement plans, in this country forces too many people to choose between lives of perpetual work or poverty (and in some cases does not offer the choice of perpetual work). Just as a lack of good affordable housing and healthcare can turn increased age into increased vulnerability, especially in Black and brown communities.

But age itself no longer forces people, especially women, to assume certain limited roles, to feel that they must stop being who they are because the calendar year has changed or fade because society tells them to.

Being 60 is just being 60. It feels a lot like being 50, only better—no menstrual cramps or hot flashes.

I'm not too old to learn to apply foundation or fold fitted sheets. But when you have a thousand freckles, foundation never works anyway, and I have never seen the point in folding fitted sheets—I'll just keep shoving them in the pillow case like I've been doing for 40 years.

CHUSEOK JAL BONAESEYO

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Have a good Chuseok!

(Like saying Happy Thanksgiving in English)

Chuseok is a time when Korean families gather together to give thanks to their ancestors for an abundant autumn harvest. It is a celebration of the mid-autumn full moon. This year it will take place from Thursday, Sept. 28, to Saturday Sept. 30, 2023.

The following poems first appeared in the Saipan Tribune on June 27, 2019.

KOREAN FOODS FOR THOUGHT

Acrostic sonnets, appetizing poems, and Korean proverbs

"Nam-ui deok-ee deo keo bo-een da" or " your rice cake looks bigger than mine". It means the grass is always greener on the other side.

BIBIMBAP RAP and GIMCHI GAZETEER

B - Bibimbap is rice, egg, meat, vegetables in hot sauce
I - Incheon means "kind river" large seaport city, pop. 2.5 million
B - Busan means Kettle Mountain, the shape of a mountain nearby
I - Incheon has had a Hyanggo, Confucian School, since 1392
M - Making kimchi is an essential skill for men and women
B - Bring on the "bugeo guk" (seafood soup) and bulgogi
A - A name for the Korean peninsula is Hanbando
P - Pyongyang, North Korea is only 121 miles from Seoul !

G - Gimchi, fermented vegetables, is spelled kimchi on Western menus
I - Interest in Buddhist temples remains strong with Koreans
M - Military protection lies along the northern border
C - Chili pepper and chili powder predominate in gimchi
H - Hot peppers are good for heart problems and spice up your life
I - Investigate many different types of kimchi immediately!

"Soo-bak geot-halt-gi" or "licking the outside of the watermelon."

Like just scratching the surface. This Korean proverb implies someone has made a decision or comment without knowing the facts.

BULGOGI BALLAD and JAPCHAE JOURNAL

B - Bulgogi which means "fire meat" is Korean BBQ beef
U - Usually it is made with beef but can be pork or chicken
L - Lots of Koreans drink a 22 percent rice wine called soju
G - Galbi or kalbi is the Korean word for 'rib' usually beef
O - On most Korean tables are different kinds of kimchi
G - Guksu is the Korean word for noodles
I - In bulgogi you will find pear or apple used as a marinade.
J - Japchae is a Korean noodle dish with marinated beef and veggies
A - Apples are used as bulgogi tenderizer; garlic and ginger spice it up
P - Pears from Korea are preferred for use in bulgogi and galbi
C - Cakes of glutinous rice, tteok, a dessert, accompany Korean meals
H - Have some Korean fruit desserts after your meal
A - Americans don't like seeing dog meat served on the menu
E – Eat the watermelon, don't lick the outside. Facts are inside.

"Mee-oon nom deok ha-na deo joon da" or "Give one more rice cake to a person you hate" In other words, keep your friends close and your enemies closer. To: Dr. Lee, 'Momma' Miya, Sooni, piano Professor Hana Song; and old friends up at Jikjisa I'll be up to see you in November. "Balkeun boreumdalcheoreum haengbokhan Chuseok boneaseyo" Have a Happy Choesuk with a bright full moon.

TRUMP

From page 8

the country, a band of volunteers kept a few visitor centers open and tried to keep the garbage at bay. In 2016, during a shorter shutdown, the park wasn't as fortunate. Visitors' centers at the parks were closed. In 2018, the government allowed them to remain open as long as they didn't use government resources or personnel. Now it looks like we might be heading that way again.

This is all happening because the hard-right Freedom Caucus wants to push for things like funding for the wall on the southern border. It's a power flex. It hurts regular people and federal workers. It causes inconvenience and headaches. DeSantis and Trump are quick to capitalize on our misery, while real people pay the price.

So here's a piece of free advice. Visit Everglades Park now, while it's still fully functioning. That may not be the case much longer.

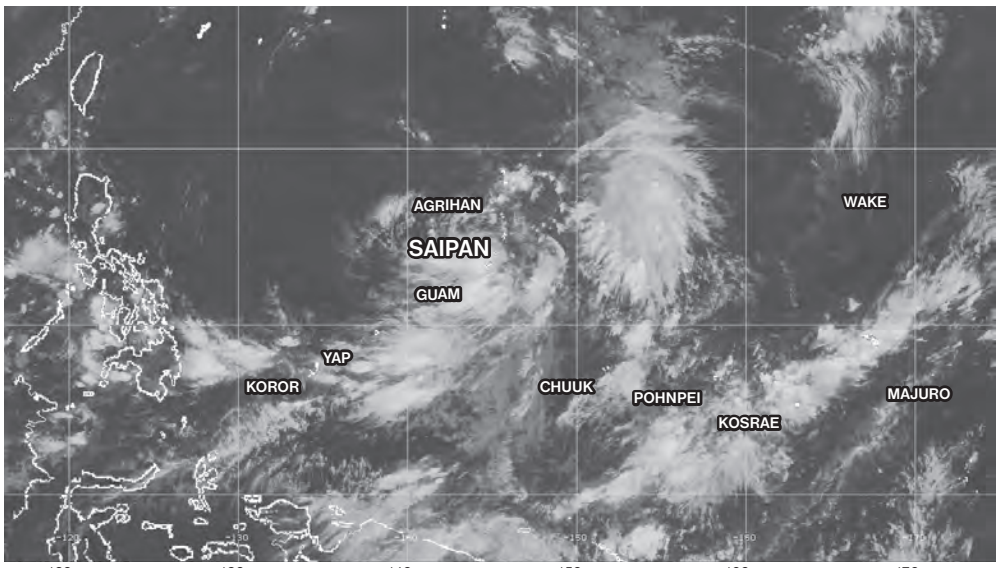
©2023 Miami Herald.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with locally heavy showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
85° 77°	85° 77°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows numerous shouwers and isolated thunderstorms over Guam and Rota, with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tinian and Saipan. The Ipan buoy reveals an east swell of 3 to 4 feet, while computer wave model guidance suggests a 4 to 6 foot southwest swell, which gives combined seas of 5 to 6 feet with pockets of 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:36 AM	5:24 PM
Friday	-	5:36 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	-	6:35 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	-	7:33 AM	7:31 PM
Monday	-	8:32 AM	8:16 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 57°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°
London	Rain	64° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	85° / 76°
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 62°
Osaka	Sunny	82° / 63°
Paris	Rain	70° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 70°
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 59°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 62°
San Francisco	Sunny	78° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	81° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	81° / 61°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:32 AM	Low Tide	0.88
05:57 AM	High Tide	1.99
12:44 PM	Low Tide	-0.06
7:14 PM	High Tide	2.04

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Biden urges striking auto workers to 'stick with it' in picket line

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—President Joe Biden grabbed a bullhorn on the picket line Tuesday and urged striking auto workers to "stick with it" in an unparalleled show of support for organized labor by a modern president.

Donning a union ballcap and exchanging fist bumps, Biden told United Auto Workers strikers that "you deserve the significant raise you need" as he stopped in the Detroit area just a day ahead of a planned visit by former President Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in next year's election.

"No deal, no wheels!" workers chanted as Biden arrived at a General Motors parts distribution warehouse, one of several facilities that has been targeted in a widening strike now in its 12th day. "No pay, no parts!"

Despite concerns that a prolonged strike could undermine the economy, particularly in the crucial battleground state of Michigan, the Democratic president encouraged workers to keep fighting for better wages at a time when car companies have seen rising profits.

AP

President Joe Biden joins striking United Auto Workers on the picket line, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, in Van Buren Township, Mich.

Asked if UAW members deserved a 40% raise, one of their demands over the course of negotiations, Biden said: "Yes. I think they should be able to bargain for that."

He's repeatedly argued that auto companies have not gone far enough to meet union demands, especially after making concessions in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

"The fact of the matter is that you guys, the UAW, you saved the automobile industry back in 2008 ... you made a lot of sacrifices. You gave up a lot. And the companies were in trouble. Now they're doing incredibly well and guess what? You should be doing incredibly well."

The White House said Biden was the first modern president to visit a picket line, a sign of how far he's willing to go to cultivate union support as he runs for reelection.

Lawmakers often appear at strikes to show solidarity with unions, and Biden joined picket lines with casino workers in Las Vegas and auto workers in Kansas City while seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

But sitting presidents, who have to balance the rights of workers with disruptions to the economy, supply chains and other facets of everyday life, have stayed out of the strike fray—until Biden.

Unimpressed, Trump called Biden's visit "nothing more than a PR stunt from Crooked Joe Biden to distract and gaslight the American people from his disastrous Bidenomics policies that have led to so much economic misery across the country."

The president spent less than half an hour at the Willow Run parts distribution warehouse, where he was joined by UAW President Shawn Fain, who rode with Biden in the presidential limousine to the picket line.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for coming to stand up with us in our generation-defining moment," said Fain, who described the union as engaged in a "kind of war" against "corporate greed."

"We do the heavy lifting. We do the real work," Fain said. "Not the CEOs."

Labor historians said they could not recall an instance when a sitting president had joined an ongoing strike, even during the tenures of ardent pro-union presidents such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Theodore Roosevelt invited labor leaders alongside mine operators to the White House amid a historic coal strike in 1902, a decision that was seen at the time as a rare embrace of unions as Roosevelt tried to resolve the dispute.

Biden's visit to the picket line was the most significant demonstration of his pro-union bona fides, a record that includes vocal support for unionization efforts at Amazon.com facilities and executive actions that promoted worker organizing. He also earned a joint endorsement of major unions earlier this year and has avoided southern California for high-dollar fundraisers amid the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood.

Amazon sued by FTC, 17 states over allegations it inflates online prices, overcharges sellers

By HALELUYA HADERO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

U.S. regulators and 17 states are suing Amazon over allegations the e-commerce behemoth abuses its position in the marketplace to inflate prices on and off its platform, overcharge sellers and stifle competition.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in federal court in Amazon's home state of Washington, is the result of a yearslong investigation into the company's businesses and one of the most significant legal challenges brought against it in its nearly 30-year history.

The Federal Trade Commission and states that joined the lawsuit allege Amazon is violating federal and state antitrust laws. They are asking the court to issue a permanent injunction that they say would prohibit Amazon from engaging in its unlawful conduct and loosen its "monopolistic control to restore competition."

The complaint accuses the company of engaging in anticompetitive practices through measures that deter sellers from offering lower prices for products on non-Amazon sites, an argument mirroring allegations made in a separate lawsuit filed last year by the state of California.

The lawsuit says Amazon buries listings offered at lower prices on other sites. At the same time, it also charges sellers high fees, forcing merchants to raise their prices on the platform, as well as on other e-commerce sites in order to keep their products competitive on Amazon.

"The complaint sets forth detailed allegations noting how Amazon is now exploiting its monopoly power to enrich itself while raising prices and degrading service for the tens of millions of American families who shop on its platform and the hundreds of thousands of businesses that rely on Amazon to reach them," FTC Chairman Lina Khan said in a prepared statement.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. said the FTC is "wrong on the facts and the law" and had departed from its role of protecting consumers and competition.

"If the FTC gets its way, the result would be fewer products to choose from, higher prices, slower deliveries for consumers, and reduced options for small businesses—the opposite of what antitrust law is designed to do," Amazon General Counsel David Zapolsky said in a prepared statement.

The lawsuit also accuses Amazon of degrading customers' experience by replacing relevant search results with paid advertisements, favoring its own brands over other products it knows to be of better quality, and charging heavy fees that force sellers to pay nearly half of their total revenues to Amazon. According to the antimonopoly organization Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the cut sellers give to Amazon from their revenue is up from 35% in 2020 and 19% in 2014.

The lawsuit also says Amazon compels sellers to use its logistics service, Fulfillment by Amazon, in order to make their products eligible for Amazon Prime, even though many of them would rather use alternative fulfillment services to get orders to customers.

Bank of Guam launches new online deposit products

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam takes the next step in their digital transformation journey with the introduction of four new online deposit products.

To help you bank how you move, Bank of Guam now gives customers the convenience of applying for new deposit products online, making opening accounts easier than ever before. The new online deposit products include Pacific Express, Pacific Express Plus, True Savings and True Savings Plus.

» New accounts with digital tools designed to keep customers on the move

"Banking should always be on your terms, and our latest products allow you to do just that. Not too long ago, we set the gear for our digital transformation, and it has been exciting to witness how the experiences around our services are evolving. Catered to every type of customer, these new products provide added convenience, ease, and a variety of benefits while remaining aligned with the growing demands of our customers and future customers," said Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook.

Guam and CNMI customers can open any of these new accounts online at bankofguam.com. Customers who wish to open their accounts in our branches can do so with their personal devices and the assistance of a Familia Ambassador.

There is no opening deposit required and customers can apply for one or all four deposit products in one application. Learn more about the four new deposit products and their benefits:

True Savings

Have the flexibility to save how you want! Start saving simply and effectively.

- Competitive rate of 0.10% annual percentage yield (APY*) with no minimum daily balance required to obtain the APY*. Interest is compounded and credited monthly.
- Must be funded within 30 days of opening the account
- Maintenance fee of $5, waived if enrolled in e-statements. $10 paper statement fee if not enrolled in e-statements
- Customers 55 years & older have maintenance and statement fee waived
- No Visa debit card will be issued

True Savings Plus

Get closer to your savings goals sooner with a competitive interest rate

- Competitive rate of 3.04% APY* with no minimum daily balance required to obtain APY*. Interest is compounded & credited monthly
- Maintenance fee of $5 waived if enrolled in e-statements. $10 paper statement fee if not enrolled in e-statements
- $3 per in branch deposit and $3 per in branch withdrawal
- No Visa debit card will be issued

Pacific Express

Open a simple transaction account and do digital banking your way

- Maintenance fee of $5 waived if enrolled in e-statements and electronic monthly deposit. $10 paper statement fee if not enrolled in e-statements
- Must be funded within 30 days of opening the account
- Customers 55 years and older have maintenance and statement fees waived
- Visa debit card

Pacific Express Plus

*Do everyday banking while earning a competitive rate of 0.50% APY**

- Competitive rate of 0.50% APY* with a minimum daily balance of $500.00
- Must be funded within 30 days of opening the account
- Maintenance fee of $5 waived if enrolled in e-statements and electronic monthly deposit. $10 paper statement fee if not enrolled in e-statements
- $3 per in-branch deposit & $3 per in-branch withdrawal
- Visa Debit card

**APY reflects the total amount of interest you can earn on money in an account over one year, while an interest rate is the rate at which the interest is earned on the original amount. APY is current as of 09/26/2023. Rate for this account is variable, determined by the Bank of Guam at its sole discretion and can change before or after account opening. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.*

In August, Bank of Guam revealed the first look into its Branch of the Future model with the reopening of their Tamuning Branch in the ITC Building. Along with an entirely new look and modern design, the Tamuning Branch experience focuses on self-service and leading-edge technology featuring digital-first banking. ***(PR)***

Nation

Congress says it wants to avoid a shutdown

» But House and Senate moving even further apart

AP

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., walks to the chamber for procedural votes to advance appropriations bills, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday night, Sept. 26, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Congress is starkly divided over very different paths to preventing a federal shutdown—the Senate charging ahead with a bipartisan package to temporarily fund the government but the House slogging through a longshot effort with no real chance of finishing by Saturday's deadline.

With days remaining before a federal closure, the stakes are rising with no resolution at hand.

A shutdown would furlough millions of federal employees, leave the military without pay, disrupt air travel and cut off vital safety net services, and it would be politically punishing to lawmakers whose job it is to fund government.

President Joe Biden, who earlier this year reached a budget deal with Speaker Kevin McCarthy that became law, believes it's up to the House Republicans to deliver.

"A deal is a deal," said White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre. "This is for them to fix."

Late Tuesday, the Senate pushed ahead in sweeping bipartisan fashion to break the stalemate, advancing a temporary measure, called a continuing resolution, or CR, to keep government running through Nov. 17. It would maintain funding at current levels with a $6 billion boost for Ukraine and $6 billion for U.S. disaster relief, among other provisions.

It's on track for Senate approval later this week but faces long odds in the House.

The Republican McCarthy, pushed by a hard-right flank that rejects the deal he made with Biden and is demanding steep spending cuts, showed no interest in the Senate's bipartisan effort—or the additional money for Ukraine.

"I think their priorities are bad," he said about the Senate effort.

Instead, McCarthy is reviving plans for the House Republicans' own stopgap funding measure that would slash federal spending by 8% for many agencies and attach a hardline border security measure that conservatives are demanding. He's planning a Friday vote, but Biden, Democrats and even some Republicans have said the package is too extreme.

McCarthy is trying to goad Biden into negotiations over the border package, highlighting the record numbers of migrants crossing the Southern border with Mexico, but the speaker has little leverage at this point and the White House has downplayed the prospect of talks.

But first, McCarthy is expected to spend much of this week trying to pass some of the bills needed to fund government agencies—Defense, Homeland Security, Agriculture and State and Foreign Operations.

It's a daunting task ahead. The House Republicans advanced those bills late Tuesday after a days of setbacks and disarray, but it is not at all clear McCarthy has the votes from his hard-right flank to actually pass the four bills this week.

One of the key right-flank holdouts, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., who is fighting for more cuts and opposes the funds for Ukraine, said she voted against advancing the package because the bills are headed toward defeat anyway.

"I'm trying to save everybody from wasting time," she said.

The 79-page Senate bill would fund the government at current levels and would include the Ukraine and U.S. disaster aid that has been in jeopardy. It also includes an extension of Federal Aviation Administration provisions expiring Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the Senate bill shows "bipartisanship can triumph over extremism."

Schumer said, "We all know together that a government shutdown will be devastating, devastating to this country."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell appeared on board with the bipartisan Senate plan, saying, "Government shutdowns are bad news."

The hard-right House Republicans are being egged on by Donald Trump, the frontrunner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary, who has urged them to stand firm in the fight or "shut it down."

It is setting up a split-screen later this week as House Republicans hold their first Biden impeachment inquiry hearing probing the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden. It also comes as former Trump officials are floating their own plans to slash government and the federal workforce if the former president retakes the White House.

Calls are mounting for Menendez to resign

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Bob Menendez came under heavy pressure to resign Tuesday as a surging number of his Democratic colleagues in the Senate, including fellow New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker, urged him to step aside over the federal bribery allegations against him.

Around half of Senate Democrats have now said that Menendez should resign, including several running for reelection next year. Calls for his resignation, including from the head of the Senate Democrats' campaign arm, Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, came in quick succession after Booker called on his colleague to step aside. Menendez has refused to leave office but has not yet said whether he will run for reelection next year.

Menendez, the longtime chairman and top Democrat on the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his wife, Nadine, are accused in an indictment released Friday of using his position to aid the authoritarian government of Egypt and to pressure federal prosecutors to drop a case against a friend, among other allegations of corruption. The three-count indictment says they were paid bribes — gold bars, a luxury car and cash — by three New Jersey businessmen in exchange for the corrupt acts.

In a statement, Booker said that while Menendez deserves the presumption of innocence, senators should adhere to a higher standard, and the details of the allegations against Menendez have "shaken to the core" the faith and trust of his constituents. He said the indictment of Menendez includes "shocking allegations of corruption and specific, disturbing details of wrongdoing."

"As senators, we operate in the public trust," Booker said. "That trust is essential to our ability to do our work and perform our duties for our constituents."

Menendez has denied any wrongdoing, saying he merely performed as any senator would and that the nearly half million dollars in cash found in his home — including some stuffed in pockets of clothing — was from personal savings and kept at hand for emergencies. Authorities recovered about 10 cash-filled envelopes that had the fingerprints of one of the other defendants in the case on them, according to the indictment.

Menendez, along with his wife and two of the businessmen co-defendants, are to be arraigned Wednesday.

Another defendant, Wael Hana, was arrested at New York's Kennedy Airport Tuesday after returning voluntarily from Egypt to face the charges. According to the indictment, Hana served as a conduit to Menendez for Egyptian military and intelligence officials, passing messages to and from the senator and arranging meetings.

Judge rules Trump defrauded banks, insurers while building real estate empire

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge ruled Tuesday that Donald Trump committed fraud for years while building the real estate empire that catapulted him to fame and the White House, and he ordered some of the former president's companies removed from his control and dissolved.

Judge Arthur Engoron, ruling in a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, found that Trump and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

Engoron ordered that some of Trump's business licenses be rescinded as punishment, making it difficult or impossible for them to do business in New York, and said he would continue to have an independent monitor oversee Trump Organization operations.

If not successfully appealed, the order would strip Trump of his authority to make strategic and financial decisions over some of his key properties in the state.

Trump, in a series of statements, railed against the decision, calling it "un-American" and part of an ongoing plot to damage his campaign to return to the White House.

"My Civil rights have been violated, and some Appellate Court, whether federal or state, must reverse this horrible, un-American decision," he wrote on his Truth Social site. He insisted his company had "done a magnificent job for New York State" and "done business perfectly," calling it "A very sad Day for the New York State System of Justice!"

Trump's lawyer, Christopher Kise, said they would appeal, calling the decision "completely disconnected from the facts and governing law."

Engoron's ruling, days before the start of a non-jury trial in James' lawsuit, is the strongest repudiation yet of Trump's carefully coiffed image as a wealthy and shrewd real estate mogul turned political powerhouse.

Beyond mere bragging about his riches, Trump, his company and key executives repeatedly lied about them on his annual financial statements, reaping rewards such as favorable loan terms and lower insurance costs, Engoron found.

Those tactics crossed a line and violated the law, the judge said, rejecting Trump's contention that a disclaimer on the financial statements absolved him of any wrongdoing.

"In defendants' world: rent regulated apartments are worth the same as unregulated apartments; restricted land is worth the same as unrestricted land; restrictions can evaporate into thin air; a disclaimer by one party casting responsibility on another party exonerates the other party's lies," Engoron wrote in his 35-page ruling. "That is a fantasy world, not the real world."

Manhattan prosecutors had looked into bringing criminal charges over the same conduct but declined to do so, leaving James to sue Trump and seek penalties that aim to disrupt his and his family's ability to do business.

Engoron's ruling, in a phase of the case known as summary judgment, resolves the key claim in James' lawsuit, but several others remain. He'll decide on those claims and James' request for $250 million in penalties at a trial starting Oct. 2. Trump's lawyers have asked an appeals court for a delay.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Imran Khan remains behind bars as cases pile up

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court on Tuesday ordered that former Prime Minister Imran Khan remain in custody for two more weeks as authorities investigate charges that he had revealed state secrets after his 2022 ouster. The development is the latest in an unprecedented pileup of legal cases against the country's top opposition leader and hugely popular former cricket star turned Islamist politician. Since his ouster in a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April last year, Khan has campaigned against Shehbaz Sharif, who succeeded him. The legal imbroglio underscores the deepening political turmoil in Pakistan since Khan's ouster and ahead of the next parliamentary elections, due in the last week of January. Sharif stepped down last month at the completion of parliament's term and an interim government took over to steer Pakistan through the elections. Khan is facing more than 150 cases, including charges ranging from contempt of court to terrorism and inciting violence, and was given a three-year sentence on corruption charges in early August. Later that month, an Islamabad High Court suspended that sentence in what amounted to a legal victory for Khan. Still, he remained behind bars as another court—a special tribunal—ordered he be held over allegedly revealing official secrets in an incident late last year when Khan had waved a confidential diplomatic letter at a rally. The document, dubbed Cipher, has not been made public by either the government or Khan's lawyers but was apparently diplomatic correspondence between the Pakistani ambassador to Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad. Khan's lawyer Naeem Panjutha told reporters that a special court hearing the Cipher case has extended custody for the former premier until Oct. 10. The custody was initially to expire on Tuesday.

India and US army chiefs call for free and stable Indo-Pacific as Chinese influence grows

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's army chief on Tuesday said the country was committed to maintaining a free and stable Indo-Pacific, where the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations is respected, as global concern grows over Chinese influence in the region. General Manoj Pande made the comments at the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference, hosted by India and the U.S., which is focused on boosting military diplomacy and collaboration as well as promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Army chiefs and delegations from 30 countries are attending the two-day event, which concludes Wednesday. Pande said that while countries in the region are working toward a free Indo-Pacific, "we are witnessing manifestations of interstate contestations and competition"—a veiled reference to China, which has stepped up its activities in the region. Neither Pande nor the U.S. Army chief, Randy George, explicitly mentioned China in their remarks.

China's top diplomat calls on US to host APEC summit that's cooperative, not confrontational

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister called on the U.S. on Tuesday to do what it can to host a cooperative meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders in November, criticizing those who seek to play up a confrontation between democracy and authoritarianism. Wang Yi said the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco in November should promote cooperation rather than provoke confrontation, and said the U.S. should show fairness and inclusiveness to create better conditions for a smooth meeting. "We should ... oppose advocating for 'democracy versus authoritarianism' and imposing our own values and models on others," he said at the launch of a government report on its proposals for what it calls "a global community of shared future."

U.S. President Joe Biden has sought to create alliances and partnerships with other democratic countries to build a more unified response to China's growing geopolitical influence. China is a one-party state that has been ruled by the Communist Party for more than 70 years.

S. Korea parades troops and powerful weapons in biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea paraded thousands of troops and an array of weapons capable of striking North Korea through its capital as part of its biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in 10 years on Tuesday, as its president vowed to build a stronger military to thwart any provocation by the North. Concerns are growing that North Korea is seeking Russian help in expanding its nuclear arsenal in return for supplying Moscow with conventional arms exhausted by its war with Ukraine. "After looking at your imposing march today, I believe our people would trust you and have faith in our national security," President Yoon Suk Yeol told cheering soldiers at the end of the ceremony in a central Seoul plaza. "I'll always support you together with our people." Earlier, South Korea rolled tanks, artillery systems, drones and powerful ballistic missiles capable of hitting all of North Korea through the streets of Seoul, amid steady autumn rains. About 4,000 South Korean troops carrying rifles or flags followed them, accompanied by about 300 U.S. soldiers, in the first such military parade since 2013.

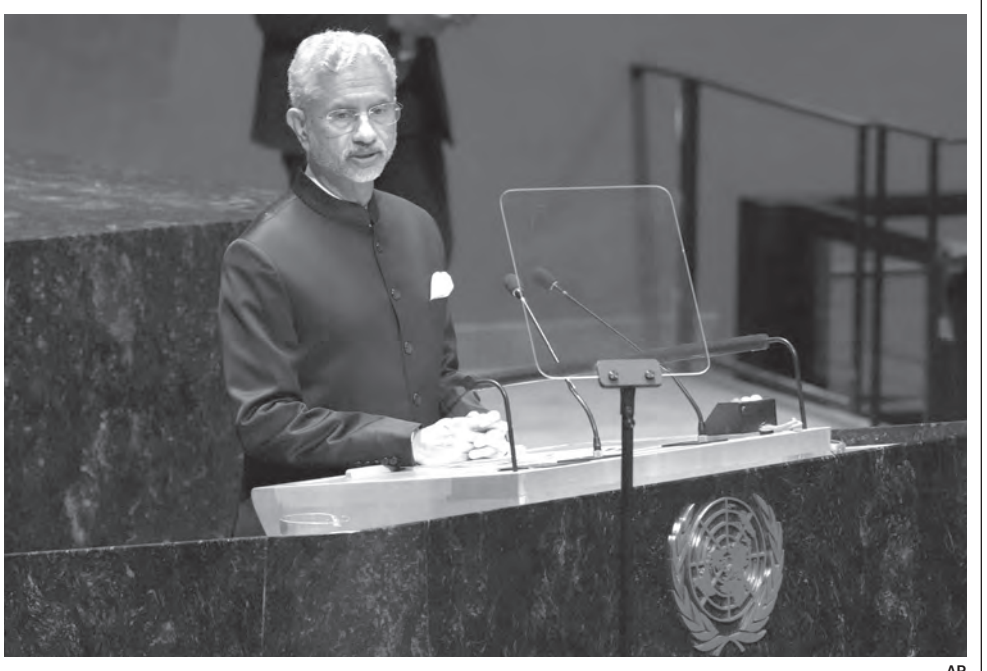
S. Korea's Constitutional Court strikes down law banning anti-Pyongyang leafleting

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's Constitutional Court on Tuesday struck down a 2020 law that criminalized the sending of anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets to North Korea, calling it an excessive restriction on free speech. The ruling came in response to a complaint filed by North Korean defector-activists in the South. They included Park Sang-hak, who has been a frequent target of North Korean government anger for his yearslong campaign of flying leaflets across the border with balloons. The law was crafted by the previous liberal government in Seoul that desperately pushed for inter-Korean engagement. It made leafleting a crime punishable by up to three years in prison or a fine of 30 million won ($22,000). The law passed in December 2020, six months after the North expressed its displeasure over the leaflets by blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong. Park did not immediately comment on the court's decision, which immediately invalidated the law. He and other activists could still be blocked by police in situations where their leafleting activities are seen as risking the safety of South Koreans living in border areas, the court said.

World

IN UN SPEECHES

India, Canada steer clear of dispute over Sikh separatist leader's killing



AP

India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Indian and Canadian diplomats didn't directly address their countries' row over the killing of a Sikh separatist leader, but they obliquely underscored some key talking points as they addressed world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said that the world must not "countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence." Canadian U.N. Ambassador Robert Rae, by turn, insisted that "we cannot bend the rules of state-to-state relations for political expediency."

Relations between the two countries frayed after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that India may have been involved in the June killing of a Canadian citizen in a Vancouver suburb.

Canada has yet to provide any public evidence to support the claim about the slaying of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45. Killed by masked gunmen, Nijjar was a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create an independent Sikh homeland, known as Khalistan, and India had designated him a terrorist.

India's foreign ministry dismissed the allegation as "absurd" and accused Canada of harboring "terrorists and extremists." It also implied that Trudeau was trying to drum up domestic support among the Sikh diaspora.

"Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the ministry said in a statement last week.

India has accused Canada for years of giving free rein to Sikh separatists, including Nijjar. While the active insurgency ended decades ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has warned that Sikh separatists were trying to stage a comeback. New Delhi has pressed countries like Canada, where Sikhs make up more than 2% of the population, to do more to stop a separatist resurgence.

After Trudeau aired his claim, India suspended visas for Canadians, there were tit-for-tit expulsions of diplomats, and Ottawa said it might reduce consulate staff over safety concerns.

Fire at wedding hall in northern Iraq killed more than 100 people

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—A raging fire seemingly caused by fireworks set off to celebrate a Christian wedding consumed a hall packed with guests in northern Iraq, killing at least 100 people and injuring 150 others as authorities warned Wednesday the death toll could still rise.

Authorities said that flammable building materials also contributed to the latest disaster to hit Iraq's dwindling Christian minority. The fire happened in the Hamdaniya area of Iraq's Nineveh province, authorities said. That's a predominantly Christian area just outside of the city of Mosul, some 335 kilometers (205 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

There was no official word on the cause of the blaze, but the Kurdish television news channel Rudaw showed fireworks shooting up from the floor of the event and setting a chandelier aflame.

In the blaze's aftermath, only charred metal and debris could be seen as people walked through the scene of the fire, the only light coming from television cameras and the lights of onlookers' mobile phones.

Survivors arrived at local hospitals in bandages, receiving oxygen as their families milled through hallways and outside as workers organized more oxygen cylinders.

Other footage shown on other local television networks appeared to show the bride and groom on the dance floor when the fire began, stunned by the sight of the burning debris. It wasn't immediately clear if they were among those hurt.

Health officials in Nineveh province raised the death toll to 114, though federal officials did not immediately update their figure of at least 100 killed. Health Ministry spokesman Saif al-Badr put the number of injured at 150 in that earlier statement carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

Environment

How climate change could affect where and when people travel

By SAM KEMMIS of NerdWallet

Travelers encountered many weather surprises this summer, from wildfires in Europe to knee-deep mud at Burning Man. Indeed, it was the hottest summer on record around the globe, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

"The dog days of summer are not just barking, they are biting," said U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres in a prepared statement published Sept. 6. "Our planet has just endured a season of simmering—the hottest summer on record. Climate breakdown has begun."

Shifting weather patterns are raising questions about where, when, how and whether tourists will travel.

For example, does it still make sense to visit Italy in July, despite high temperatures, large crowds and minimal air conditioning? Or should "peak" travel season move to the more hospitable autumn or spring months?

Tourism destinations are starting to take note—and get worried—about the toll climate change could take on this enormous industry.

AP

People cool off at a fountain in front of the Pantheon, in Rome, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023, where temperatures were expected to reach as high as 37 Celsius (98 Farenheit). This was the hottest summer on record across the globe, forcing many tourists to rethink how and where they travel.

HOT DESTINATIONS

Escaping to the Spanish coast for the summer used to sound like a dream. This year it turned into more of a nightmare for Mediterranean travelers. The coastal city of Valencia, Spain, saw temperatures reach 116 degrees Fahrenheit in August, a record high. That came amid Spain's limits on air conditioning use in public spaces, leaving tourists to sweat it out.

These trends are only likely to get worse, driving travelers away from hot beachside destinations in Europe, according to a July report from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Southern coastal regions such as Greece, Italy and Spain are expected to see a drop in tourism if temperatures continue to increase.

On the other hand, colder destinations in Northern Europe could actually see more vacationers. Denmark, France and the United Kingdom could receive more tourists because of higher temperatures, according to the report. Greenland, which is mostly covered with ice, is expecting to see far more tourists in the coming decades, with a new airport set to open in 2024.

Closer to home, many popular destinations have already been affected by rising temperatures. The namesake glaciers of Glacier National Park have lost an average of 40% of their size between 1966 and 2015, according to the National Park Service. Florida's coral reefs were bleaching and dying under the stress of record ocean temperatures this summer.

PEAK TRAVEL SEASONS

Summers are for vacations—that's a truth so universally acknowledged as to be almost self-evident. Families travel while kids are out of school, and office workers flee to vacation in ideal weather.

Yet, as summers continue to warm, these vacations could give way to "shoulder season" alternatives in spring and autumn months. In other words, tourists could change when (rather than where) they visit.

Indeed, this change may already be taking place. Short-term rental analytics platform AirDNA reported that occupancy rates at mountain and lake destinations in October 2022 were nearly as high as 2019's peak occupancy (in July), bucking the typical sharp downward trend after the summer.

Cherry blossoms in Japan are flowering 11 days earlier than they used to, according to a 2022 report in the journal Environmental Research Letters. (21) This has shifted the tourist-attracting cherry blossom festival from April into March.

Changes in flexible working conditions, as well as pent-up demand from the pandemic, could also be contributing to the rise of shoulder season travel. Yet as more travelers take stock of changing weather patterns, they will likely adjust their schedules to avoid stifling summer heat. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre estimates that southern coastal regions could lose as much as 10% of tourists during peak summer months.

A CLIMATE CATCH-22

A changing climate will affect how and when tourists travel. Yet this causation runs the other way, as well: Tourism is itself affecting the climate.

Tourism accounts for about 8% of global emissions, according to some estimates. A single trans-Atlantic flight would require an acre of forest to absorb its carbon emissions. Although the airline industry is racing to reduce emissions, it lags far behind other major emitters, such as passenger vehicles, in making meaningful change.

What does that mean for airline passengers? Either they must begin reducing the number of miles they fly, or governments may begin imposing restrictions in order to reduce emissions.

For example, France has already banned short-haul domestic flights for routes already serviced by rail. That is, if travelers can get there in less than two and a half hours on a train, they can no longer fly. Similar bans could appear throughout Europe as countries get more aggressive on combating climate change.

Some advocates have even proposed a frequent flyer tax that scales with the number of flights a traveler takes—61an effort to curb these large carbon footprints.

Whether these or similar measures take off in coming years or not, this much is clear: The days of unfettered jet-setting could be coming to an end.

Brazil's Amazon rainforest faces a severe drought that may affect around 500,000 people

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The Amazon rainforest in Brazil is facing a severe drought that may affect around 500,000 people by the end of the year, authorities said Tuesday.

Many are already struggling to access essential supplies such as food and water, because the principal means of transportation in the region is waterways, and river levels are historically low. Droughts also impact fishing, a means of subsistence for many riverside communities.

Amazonas state declared an environmental emergency two weeks ago in response to the prolonged drought and launched a response plan valued at $20 million. Authorities will also distribute food and water supplies as well as personal hygiene kits, the state's civil defense agency said in a statement.

Gov. Wilson Lima was in Brazil's capital, Brasilia, on Tuesday to meet with representatives of the federal government. Lima spoke with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to discuss the drought.

The different levels of government will "coordinate measures in support of the people living in the affected municipalities," Lima said on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, on Sunday.

Fifteen municipalities were in a state of emergency on Tuesday, while 40 others were on a state of alert, the civil defense authority said.

According to the port of Manaus, which monitors water levels, the river stood at 16.7 meters (55 feet) on Tuesday, around six meters (20 feet) below the same day last year. The lowest level of water was recorded on Oct. 24, 2010, when the river dropped to 13.6 meters (about 45 feet).

The drought is forecast to last longer and be more intense because of El Niño climate phenomenon, which inhibits the formation of rain clouds, the civil defense authority said.

AP

Boys walk next to a floating home stranded on what used to be the water´s edge of the Negro river, amidst a drought in Manaus, Brazil, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023.

Climate change exacerbates droughts by making them more frequent, longer and more severe. Warmer temperatures enhance evaporation, which reduces surface water and dries out soils and vegetation.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift is a fan of Travis Kelce and suddenly, so is everyone else

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift's trip to watch the Kansas City Chiefs' Travis Kelce play football on Sunday didn't just have the internet talking nonstop. Following the 12-time Grammy Award winner's appearance at Arrowhead Stadium, jersey sales for the All-Pro tight-end seemingly skyrocketed.

According to sportswear and fan merchandise company Fanatics, Kelce was one of the top 5 selling NFL players Sunday. He "saw a nearly 400% spike in sales throughout the Fanatics network of sites, including NFLShop.com," a spokesperson told The Associated Press via email.

AP

Taylor Swift, right, watches from a suite alongside Travis Kelce's mother, Donna Kelce, inside Arrowhead Stadium during the first half of an NFL football game between the Chicago Bears and Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

Sales spiked on the same day that Swift was spotted in Kansas City, watching the Chiefs play the Chicago Bears alongside Kelce's mother, Donna, from one of the football stadium's glass-enclosed suites.

Kelce did not speak to reporters afterward, but he was spotted leaving Arrowhead with Swift by his side.

Still, just about everyone in the Kansas City locker room was buzzing about the news after Sunday's game, including coach Andy Reid, who joked that "I set them up."

Swift has always been reluctant to discuss her personal life in public, but rumors have been flying about the popstar and the pro football player in recent months—notably after a July episode of Kelce's "New Heights" podcast, when he said he was disappointed that he didn't get to meet Swift and gift her a friendship bracelet during Kansas City stop on her Eras Tour. In a later appearance on the "The Pat McAfee Show," Kelce revealed that he invited Swift to watch him play.

Swift is currently on a break from her Eras Tour, which resumes Nov. 9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Beyond jersey sales, the NFL has also met the internet hype of Swift's trip to Arrowhead. As of Tuesday, the NFL's bio on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, read "NFL (Taylor's Version)" alongside a photo of Swift and Donna Kelce watching Sunday's game.

Hollywood writers strike over after guild leaders approve contract with studios

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood's writers strike was declared over after nearly five months Tuesday night when board members from their union approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing the industry at least partly back from a historic halt in production.

The governing boards of the eastern and western branches of the Writers Guild of America and their joint negotiating committee all voted to accept the deal, two days after the tentative agreement was reached with a coalition of Hollywood's biggest studios, streaming services and production companies. After the vote they declared that the strike would be over and writers would be free to start on scripts at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Late-night talk shows—the first to go dark when writers walked out on May 2—are likely the first shows that will resume. Scripted shows will take longer to return, with actors still on strike and no negotiations yet on the horizon.

The writers still have to vote to ratify the contract themselves in early October, but lifting the strike will allow them to work during that process, the guild told members in an email.

After Tuesday's board votes, the contracts were released for the first time to the writers, who had not yet been given any details on the deal, which their leaders called "exceptional."

The three-year agreement includes significant wins in the main areas writers had fought for—compensation, length of employment, size of staffs and control of artificial intelligence— matching or nearly equaling what they had sought at the outset of the strike.

The union had sought minimum increases in pay and future residual earnings from shows of between 5% and 6%, depending on the position of the writer. The studios had wanted between 2% and 4%. The compromise deal was a raise of between 3.5% and 5%.

The guild also negotiated new residual payments based on the popularity of streaming shows, where writers will get bonuses for being a part of the most popular shows on Netflix, Max and other services, a proposal studios initially rejected. Many writers on picket lines had complained that they weren't properly paid for helping create heavily watched properties.

Gary Sinise to receive honorary AARP Purpose Prize Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gary Sinise will receive an honorary AARP Award for his work through his foundation that supports military members and first responders.

The organization announced Tuesday that Sinise will receive the honorary AARP Purpose Prize awards during a ceremony on Oct. 25. The Emmy and Tony award winner will be recognized for his work through his Gary Sinise Foundation.

Sinise's foundation—which launched in 2011—honors military members, veterans, first responders, their families and those in need. Some of his charitable efforts include building adapted homes for severely wounded veterans and first responders, uplifting military members and families through entertainment, mental wellness programs and financial support in crucial moments.

AP

Gary Sinise attends the LA premiere of "I Still Believe," at ArcLight Hollywood, Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Sinise co-starred in "Apollo 13" and "Forrest Gump," playing a seriously wounded Vietnam War veteran, and led the cast of "NCIS: NY" for nine season.

Five individuals will be awarded the AARP Purpose Prize, which honors people ages 50 and older who are making a difference through their "knowledge and life experience." Each of their organizations will receive $50,000.

The recipients include:

1. Ken Falke of Bluemont, Virginia, whose Boulder Crest Foundation focuses on the mental health and well-being of combat veterans and first responders.

Husband's younger 'crush' reappears in couple's life

DEAR ABBY: When our son went to college years ago, he traveled all summer with a school-sponsored ministry singing group. The members were all smart, attractive, talented young men and women -- a group of four.

I stopped going to his concerts because my husband became attracted to one of the young women. She was very outgoing and annoying, so I didn't mind letting my husband go alone. After they all graduated, I thought I'd never see her again. Now, all these years later, she's a missionary, and the church we attend is sponsoring her, so I have had to see her once and I'll probably have to see her again.

I know to keep quiet about it because my husband says he doesn't want to hear it. I don't honestly think his thoughts are inappropriate. I just think he's not aware of how obviously attracted he is to this young woman. I don't act that way toward other men, even if they are attractive. Maybe especially if they are attractive. I wonder if other women experience this and how they cope.

SLIGHTLY JEALOUS IN OREGON

DEAR SLIGHTLY JEALOUS: This situation occurs with both husbands and wives. They cope in different ways. Some make a joke out of it. Others make a point of accompanying their spouse whenever they know the "crush" is around. Nowhere in your letter did you state that this younger woman is attracted to your husband or a threat to your marriage. He's old enough to be her father.

Obviously, you have talked to him about it, or he wouldn't be telling you he's sick of hearing it. Be patient and let the torch subside. Eventually, she will be transferred to another ministry, and you will be rid of her once again.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I are super close. I consider her my best friend. My brother, not so much. He ignores my texts and calls, and I know of any news about him only via our mom. My parents divorced when we were very young. When my father passed recently, he left me a decent-sized inheritance, and my brother $500.00. (They were estranged.) I took the inheritance and the equity in my house, bought a new one, and need to finance only a small amount to remodel.

Mom doesn't understand why I didn't share my inheritance with my brother and says she doesn't want to talk about it anymore. I am excited about my upcoming move and the furniture shopping and remodeling. It's killing me that I can't talk to my best friend about it. I tried explaining that giving money to my brother would be taken out of my loan, which I would have to repay with interest. She doesn't want to hear it. Can you give me some advice?

MISSING MY BESTIE IN ARIZONA

DEAR MISSING: You were not obligated to share your inheritance with your brother. If your dad had wanted his estranged son to have the money, he would have left him more. Your excitement and wanting to share all the details about buying and decorating your new home is understandable, but because your mom prefers you keep them to yourself, abide by her wishes. She may be your "best friend," but she is also your brother's mother and is entitled to her opinion about the inheritance money. It is OK for the two of you to disagree about this.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

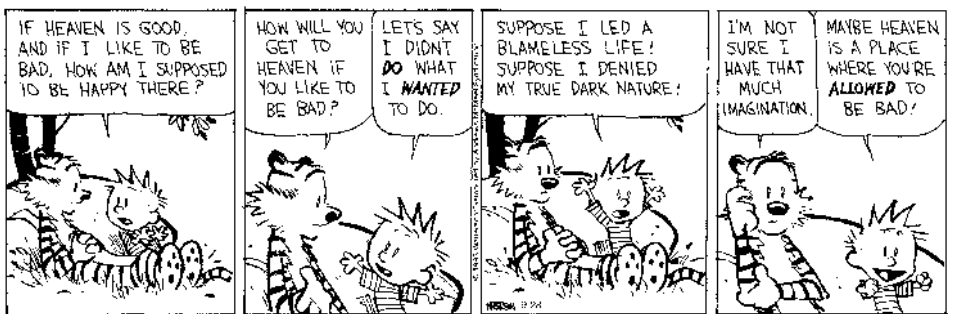
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

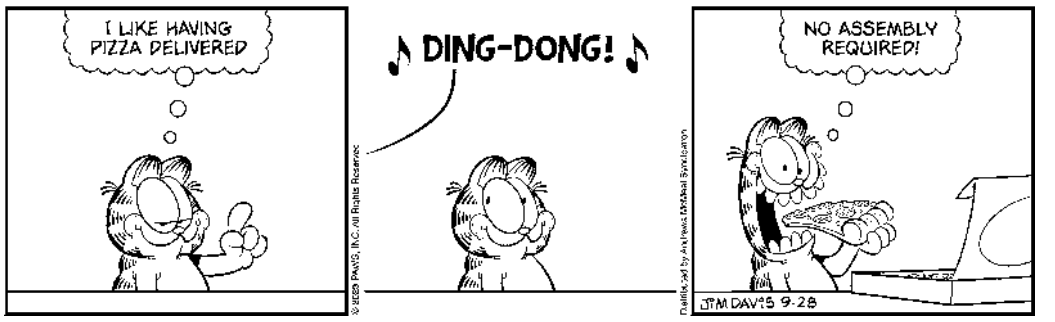
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IF HEAVEN IS GOOD, AND IF I LIKE TO BE BAD, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY THERE?
HOW WILL YOU GET TO HEAVEN IF YOU LIKE TO BE BAD?
LET'S SAY I DIDN'T DO WHAT I WANTED TO DO.
SUPPOSE I LED A BLAMELESS LIFE! SUPPOSE I DENIED MY TRUE DARK NATURE!
I'M NOT SURE I HAVE THAT MUCH IMAGINATION.
MAYBE HEAVEN IS A PLACE WHERE YOU'RE ALLOWED TO BE BAD!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



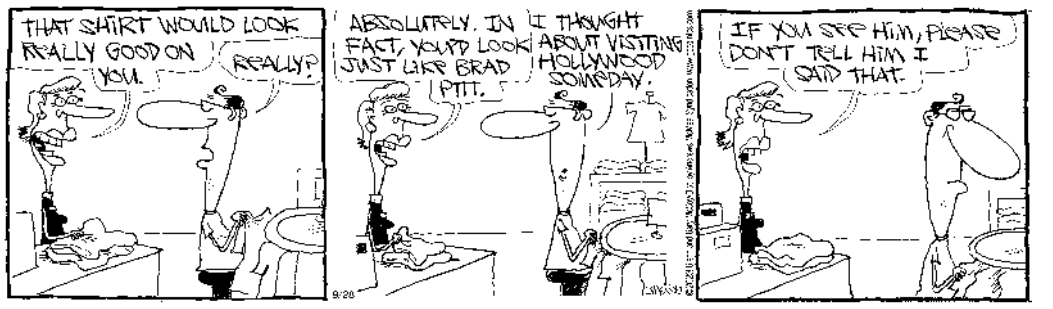
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DOES WRITING HURT?
HUH? WHY?
SOMETIMES I HEAR YOU GRUNTING WHEN YOU WRITE.
WELL, SOMETIMES STARTING YOUR BRAIN IS LIKE... LIKE...
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE GETTING A TIRED DAD OFF THE FLOOR AFTER A GAME-DAY NAP
GRUNT CITY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THAT SHIRT WOULD LOOK REALLY GOOD ON YOU.
REALLY?
ABSOLUTELY. IN FACT, YOU'D LOOK JUST LIKE BRAD PITT.
I THOUGHT ABOUT VISITING HOLLYWOOD SOMEDAY.
IF YOU SEE HIM, PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM I SAID THAT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

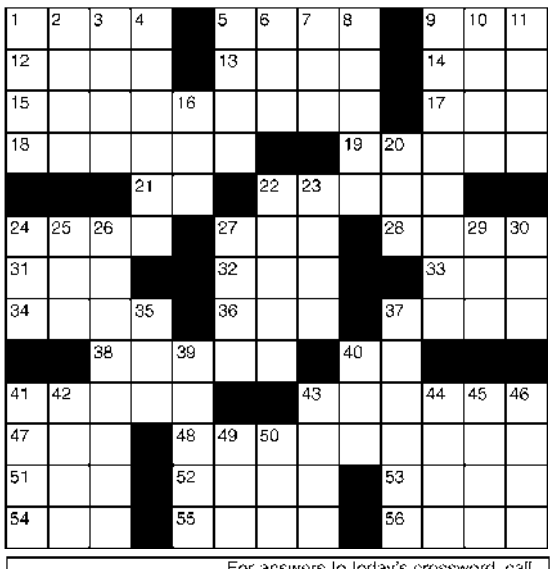
1 Barber's tool
5 Poetry contest
9 Wee dollop
12 Lotion ingredient
13 — Brasi ("The Godfather" enforcer)
14 Eggs
15 Lizzie Borden's hometown
17 Victory
18 Shoelace hole
19 Gives temporarily
21 "Perfect" singer Sheeran
22 Parody
24 Klutzes
27 High school subj.
28 Siestas
31 401(k) alternative
32 "— you there?"
33 Country music's Greenwood
34 Happy melody
36 Scepter
37 Linen source
38 Hopping mad
40 Chicago transport
41 Forbidden
43 Purplish shades
47 "I — Rock"
48 Cascade
51 Sinbad's bird
52 Work on proofs
53 Drifting ice
54 Chiding sound
55 Track circuits
56 Dispatch

DOWN

1 Sidewalk eatery
2 Skin care brand
3 Burrowing critter
4 Ball attendees
5 Skirt feature
6 Candy heart word
7 Tennis feat
8 "That Girl" star Thomas
9 Collapse
10 Eager
11 Proscribes
16 Roulette bet
20 Many millennia
22 Seafood selection
23 Multicolored
24 Corn product
25 Onassis nickname
26 Plan B
27 Mumbai dress
29 Soup legume
30 Kinsey study
35 Uncle, to Pedro
37 Plumps up, as pillows
39 O, for one
40 Listening device
41 Like limes
42 Book after Joel
43 Citi Field team
44 Low-lying area
45 Carolina college
46 Winter coaster
49 Nabokov novel
50 Bit of advice

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Duff, 36; Ranbir Kapoor, 41; Mira Sorvino, 56; Janeane Garofalo, 59.

Happy Birthday: Size up your situation and devise a plan that utilizes what you know and do best. Changing your financial situation is possible but requires monitoring for safety due to temptation and scams. When in doubt, refer to an expert, but don't give anyone control. Pay attention to health, fitness and proper nutrition, and approach life and love with passion and a positive attitude. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 27, 38, 42, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Hone your skills and reinforce what you want to achieve. A clear mind and set goal will encourage you to put your strengths to work for you and to pursue what makes you feel passionate. Don't clutter your plans with someone else's demands. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Use your imagination to discover how to entice your peers to accept your ideas and plans. Don't hesitate to spotlight the intricacies of every move you want to make, and be sure to enlist individuals you feel confident will carry out your plans as specified. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look at the possibilities and put your energy where it counts. A playful presentation will grab the attention of someone eager to join your team. Offer tidbits of information, but not enough that someone tries to take credit for your ideas. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let the hustle and bustle around you occupy your time when there is so much you can accomplish that will position you for greatness. Be aware of the possibilities and take heed of where your intuition leads you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mingle, communicate, offer services and use charm. Refuse to let the decisions others make throw you off guard or put a dent in your plans. Follow your heart and engage in learning, traveling and putting your plans in motion. Personal gain is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Embrace whatever comes your way. New beginnings will set your mind on fire and give you the courage to use your imagination to find solutions that excite you. Don't limit your vision if discipline and hard work can carry you to victory. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pick up the pace and dazzle onlookers with your enthusiasm and ability to surpass your target. Refuse to let someone's negativity ruin your plans. Stay on the path that offers security and a healthy lifestyle. Romance and updating your image are favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A creative adventure will change how you approach life. Assess your lifestyle and goals, and you'll develop a plan that is more to your liking. It's time to live life your way and to deep-six programs that no longer fit your criteria. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen and respond with honesty and facts, or someone will challenge you. Take precautions when dealing with someone who tries to manipulate you emotionally. It's up to you to take charge when necessary. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Choose a path that offers mental stimulation and the ability to change your routine and reach a happy place. It's OK to be different and to do things your way. You control your destiny, so don't allow others to deter you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sidestep anyone who tries to divert you from the direction you want to go. Give yourself the power to make decisions that ease stress and create the place you feel most comfortable. Walk away from temptation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You've got the drive and the resourcefulness to do your own thing. Don't let a bad decision, disagreeable associate or overindulgence be your downfall. Think about what concerns you, and surround yourself with people contributing to your success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, flexible and imaginative. You are impulsive and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		4		8	7		9
2				5			3	
							1	
		4		8		6		7
	2	5		1		9	4	
			2				8	
	4			3		1	9	
9					2	3		8
5					1		7	

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/28

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	4	8	7	9	1	6	2	3
6	2	1	4	5	3	9	7	8
3	9	7	2	6	8	4	5	1
4	3	2	1	7	9	8	6	5
9	8	6	3	2	5	1	4	7
7	1	5	8	4	6	3	9	2
1	7	4	6	8	2	5	3	9
8	6	9	5	3	7	2	1	4
2	5	3	9	1	4	7	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/27

©2012 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE MUSEUM OF ILLUSIONS Solution: 9 letters

P	S	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	W	I
P	E	T	S	E	S	S	A	P	A	B	R	A	I	N
S	L	R	E	U	E	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	S
N	I	A	C	R	Y	C	I	E	L	Z	Z	U	P	T
O	N	O	Y	E	E	T	N	S	H	T	L	U	D	A
I	F	C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	H	O	S	L
S	I	Z	E	O	O	T	G	V	L	O	A	E	S	L
N	N	R	L	K	S	O	I	R	L	A	S	D	U	A
E	I	P	C	C	R	E	M	O	A	O	B	Ⓓ	O	T
M	T	H	H	I	E	E	G	E	N	M	Ⓝ	V	U	I
I	Y	O	A	R	T	R	V	A	Z	Ⓘ	D	I	G	O
D	O	T	I	T	A	W	S	E	Ⓜ	A	G	S	I	N
L	I	O	R	M	W	R	O	R	R	I	M	U	B	S
S	C	I	S	Y	H	P	P	A	W	S	D	A	M	E
F	A	C	E	P	O	C	S	O	D	I	E	L	A	K

©2005 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/28

Adult, Ambiguous, Balance, Brain, Chair, Collections, Corporate, Dimensions, Eyes, Face, Focus, Games, Head, Holograms, Images, Infinity, Installations, Kaleidoscope, Locations, Maze, Mind, Mirror, Noses, Optical, Passes, Perception, Photo, Physics, Playroom, Puzzle, Reverse, School, Size, Stereogram, Swap, Trick, Vase, Visual, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Lithium

The NEW **Treasury 54** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Brewers lose 4-1 to Cardinals, but get help from Braves to clinch NL Central

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers clinched the National League Central title for the third time in six seasons despite a 4-1 loss to the last-place St. Louis, with the help of a come-from-behind win by the Atlanta Braves.

The Brewers clinched the division crown when the Chicago Cubs dropped a 7-6 decision to the Braves, eliminating the wild-card contending Cubs from the division race.

St. Louis starter Miles Mikolas (8-13) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. He struck out five batters and walked two, throwing 101 pitches. Ryan Helsley struck out all three batters in the ninth inning for his 13th save.

Milwaukee took a 1-0 lead in the third inning when Christian Yelich scored on a double by Carlos Santana.

The Cardinals took a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning on a double by Richie Palacios. They extended their lead to 4-1 in the fifth following a two-base error by second baseman Brice Turang.

Milwaukee starter Adrian Houser (7-5) retired the first nine batters, then allowed four runs.

AP

Milwaukee Brewers' Freddy Peralta is doused as the Brewers celebrate after clinching the NL Central, after a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, in Milwaukee.

PHILLIES 3, PIRATES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Johan Rojas hit an RBI single in the 10th inning that sent Philadelphia to a win over Pittsburgh that clinched a National League wild-card berth.

Rojas' single off Pirates reliever David Bednar (3-3) scored pinch-runner Christian Pache and sent the crowd of more than 30,000 fans into a frenzy while the Phillies mobbed each other in celebration.

Brandon Marsh homered for the Phillies and Bryce Harper tacked on a sacrifice fly in the sixth for a 2-0 lead.

Jeff Hoffman (5-2) tossed a scoreless 10th for the win.

Bryan Reynolds and Henry Davis hit homers for the Pirates.

BRAVES 7, CUBS 6

ATLANTA (AP)—Sean Murphy reached on a two-run fielding error by right fielder Seiya Suzuki in the eighth inning and Atlanta Braves overcame a six-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Suzuki ran to his right and called off center fielder Cody Bellinger, but apparently lost the fly ball in the lights and dropped it. Drew Smyly (11-10) aided the comeback by throwing two wild pitches in the eighth, letting Matt Olson advance to third and setting the stage for pinch-runner Forrest Wall to steal second.

Both runners easily scored on Suzuki's error. Brad Hand (5-2) worked a scoreless eighth to win it. Raisel Iglesias got his 31st save in the ninth after facing four batters.

The Braves cut it to 6-3 in the sixth on Kevin Pillar's homer, Olson's RBI single and Marcell Ozuna's RBI double. Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 41st homer, a two-run shot to right in the seventh, to make it 6-5.

DIAMONDBACKS 15, WHITE SOX

CHICAGO (AP)—Christian Walker homered twice and drove in six runs and Arizona helped its wild-card chances with a victory over Chicago.

Walker hit a solo shot in the second inning and a two-run drive in the sixth. He also lined a tiebreaking, three-run triple into the gap in right-center in the fifth.

Ryne Nelson (8-8) got the win, tossing 4 2/3 scoreless innings in relief.

Arizona moved one game ahead of the Chicago Cubs for the second of three NL wild cards. The Cubs blew a six-run lead in a 7-6 loss at Atlanta.

MARINERS 6, ASTROS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—George Kirby escaped an early bases loaded jam to throw six shutout innings, Seattle took advantage of three Houston errors, and the Mariners snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over the Astros.

Seattle pulled within a half-game of Houston for the final wild card spot in the American League and trail Toronto by two games after the Blue Jays lost at home to the Yankees. The Mariners also gained a game on Texas in the AL West after the Rangers lost to the Angels.

Houston didn't help its cause matching a season-high with the three errors, two of which directly led to runs. Jose Altuve's errant relay throw in the third inning allowed Mike Ford to score. In the fifth, Kyle Tucker's throw from right field skipped away from third baseman Alex Bregman and into the Houston dugout allowing Julio Rodríguez to score.

Seattle also got a sacrifice fly from Rodríguez, and RBI singles from Cal Raleigh and Teoscar Hernández. Ty France homered for the first time since Aug. 15 with a solo shot in the eighth.

ORIOLES 1, NATIONALS 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Rookie Gunnar Henderson homered, Kyle Bradish had another dominant start and Baltimore beat Washington hours after the team announced that Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson had died.

Bradish (12-7) allowed three hits, struck out four batters and had a pair of walks over a season-high eight innings. Yennier Canó picked up his eighth save for the Orioles, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

Henderson led off the first with a homer on a seven-pitch at-bat off Josiah Gray. Gray (8-13) did not allow another run through six innings. He gave up five hits with seven strikeouts and two walks.

YANKEES 2, BLUE JAYS 0

In Toronto, Austin Wells hit a two-run home run in the ninth inning and New York beat Toronto.

Michael King and two relievers combined on a three-hitter as the Yankees improved to a major league-best 18-9 since Aug. 28.

Facing Blue Jays closer Jordan Romano (5-7), Gleyber Torres singled to begin the ninth. Wells followed with a first-pitch drive into the left-field bullpen.

Romano, who blew his first save opportunity since May 20 on Saturday at Tampa Bay, took the loss for a second straight outing.

Jhony Brito (9-7) pitched two innings for the victory and Clay Holmes finished for his 23rd save in 26 chances.

ANGELS 9, RANGERS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Brandon Drury had three hits, including a home run, Reid Detmers threw seven solid innings and Los Angeles rolled to the victory over Texas, preventing the Rangers from getting another step closer to wrapping up their first playoff appearance since 2016.

Eduardo Escobar and Michael Stefanic both drove in a pair of runs for the Angels, who won for just the seventh time in 24 games in September.

With Houston also losing, Texas maintained a 2 1/2 game lead in the AL West.

Detmers (4-10) allowed only one run on four hits in seven innings and struck out seven.

Drury gave the Angels a 3-1 lead in the first inning when he connected on a low fastball from Cody Bradford (4-3) and hit it down the left-field line. The Angels broke it open with five in the fifth.

PADRES 4, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Seth Lugo allowed three hits and came within an out of his first career complete game, Juan Soto homered twice and San Diego beat San Francisco to stay alive in the NL wild-card race.

The teams are tied at 78-80, 4 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs for the final NL wild-card spot. They also are three games behind Cincinnati and four games in back of Miami.

Lugo (8-7) had seven strikeouts and worked around three walks while throwing 123 pitches for his career-best eighth victory.

TWINS 11, ATHLETICS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Matt Wallner hit a grand slam in a five-run first inning, Alex Kirilloff added a two-run homer and Minnesota beat Oakland

With its 109th loss, Oakland set a record for most defeats since the franchise moved to the city in 1968, topping the 108 losses in 1979.

Christian Vázquez added a three-run double for Minnesota.

Bailey Ober (8-6) pitched the first five innings to earn the win for the Twins. He allowed two hits and faced just one over the minimum in his five innings.

Seth Brown had a two-run homer for Oakland and in his second inning of work. Paul Blackburn (4-7) gave up five earned runs in three innings for the loss.

RAYS 9, RED SOX 7

René Pinto hit a two-run home run, Manuel Margot added a pair of RBI singles as part of a four-hit night, and Tampa Bay held on to beat Boston.

Rays starter Zach Eflin (16-8) yielded three runs off five hits over five innings to earn his third victory in four starts. Pete Fairbanks struck out three in a scoreless ninth to pick up his 25th save.

Boston has lost five of its last six games. Emmanuel Valdez had three hits and a career-high four RBIs and Wilyer Abreu added a two-run double for the Red Sox.

Tampa Bay jumped out to a 7-0 lead before Valdez got Boston on the board with a three-run home run in the fifth.

The Red Sox trimmed it to 7-5 in the sixth via Abreu's two-run double and made it 7-6 in the seventh on Justin Turner's bloop RBI single.

Tampa Bay stretched the lead back to three runs in the eighth off

TIGERS 6, ROYALS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Akil Baddoo and Parker Meadows hit consecutive homers to lead off a four-run eighth inning and Detroit pulled away from Kansas City.

Baddoo and Meadows gave the Tigers the lead against Taylor Clarke (3-6). Andy Ibañez and Zach McKinstry added RBI singles later in the eighth inning.

Jason Foley (3-3) worked an inning of relief and earned the win.

Kansas City's Zack Greinke pitched five shutout innings, and saw his winless streak grow to 22 games (19 starts) since a 6-0 win over the Baltimore Orioles on May 3. Greinke retired 14 of the 15 batters he faced but his bullpen couldn't hold on.

REDS 11, GUARDIANS 7

CLEVELAND (AP)—Rookie Elly De La Cruz had his first two-homer game and drove in four runs, Luke Maile had three RBIs and Cincinnati improved its slim playoff hopes with a victory over Cleveland.

De La Cruz hit a solo shot in the fourth off Lucas Giolito and hit a 467-foot blast to right in the eighth against Xzavion Curry. Fellow rookie Christian Encarnacion-Strand, Maile and TJ Friedl also homered for Cincinnati.

Bo Naylor belted a three-run homer and Kole Calhoun had a two-run shot for the Guardians.

ROCKIES 4, DODGERS 1, 1st GAME

DODGERS 11, ROCKIES 2, 2nd GAME

DENVER (AP)—Chase Anderson pitched five scoreless innings for his first win in 17 starts this season, Nolan Jones homered and Colorado snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating the Los Angeles in the opener of a doubleheader.

In the second game, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer to back the strong seven-inning start by rookie Bobby Miller (11-4) as Los Angeles sent the Rockies to their first 100-loss season.

David Peralta and Chris Taylor each hit two-run singles in a five-run second inning off Ryan Feltner (2-4), James Outman added four hits and Max Muncy and Kiki Hernandez had three hits apiece in the nightcap. Elehuris Montero homered for Colorado.

Brendan Rodgers added three hits and an RBI for Colorado in the first game. Anderson (1-6), who was claimed off waivers from Tampa Bay on May 12, allowed five hits. He walked two and struck out four.

The Rockies built a 3-0 lead off starter Caleb Ferguson (7-4), who went 2/3 innings. Jason Heyward had three hits for the Dodgers and scored a run in the sixth.

MARLINS-METS PPD

NEW YORK (AP)—The series opener between Miami and New York was postponed because of unplayable field conditions caused by Tropical Storm Ophelia. The game will be made up Wednesday as part of a single-admission doubleheader beginning at 4:10 p.m.

Magic has declined multiple NBA ownership chances

NEW YORK (AP)—Magic Johnson's love for his Los Angeles Lakers has kept him from considering ownership of any other NBA team.

The New York Knicks would be the one franchise that could make him have second thoughts.

"I think it would be intriguing," Johnson said Tuesday. "The only team I would actually probably think about is the New York Knicks."

Johnson arrived in New York for a speaking engagement at a YMCA from Washington, where the member of the Commanders' new ownership group watched his NFL team lose to the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

Once back in Los Angeles, he will gear up for his Dodgers to begin play in baseball's postseason. But the basketball Hall of Famer repeatedly has passed on opportunities for ownership in the sport he knows best.

AP

Magic Johnson attends the Elizabeth Taylor Ball to End AIDS on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, at The Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Johnson named the Golden State Warriors, Detroit Pistons and Atlanta Hawks as teams he turned down, rather than find himself in competition with the Lakers. The Knicks, though, offer something different.

"I think because of the way fans love basketball you might have to think about that one, because I love coming to New York and going to the Garden and watching the Knicks play," Johnson said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I love being with fans who are so passionate about their team and the Knick fans are, and they're smart. They're smart basketball fans and so that one I would have to think about. I think that other than that, I would probably never think about ever being a part of another franchise."

Johnson said he hasn't spoken with Madison Square Garden Executive Chairman James Dolan about the idea and isn't looking for an opportunity, content to watch the Lakers as a fan after serving as their president of basketball operations for two seasons before resigning in 2019.

But if the conversation did happen, Johnson would listen.

"That one you would really have to think about, in terms of being a minority owner of that team," he said. "But other than that, I would just stay with the Lakers and even with my role now, just being a fan, I'm happy just doing that with the Lakers because, again, I bleed purple and gold."

Johnson, who was in charge when the Lakers signed LeBron James, believes they can play for a second NBA title in five years.

"I think they're going to be the best team in the West this year," Johnson said.

Johnson, 64, had to retire as a Lakers player in 1991 after contracting HIV. Former NBA Commissioner David Stern allowed him to return and play in the 1992 All-Star Game, a decision Johnson believes helped encourage and educate people in the fight against AIDS.

He remains a passionate advocate for health education and on Tuesday led a discussion about the risks of RSV, a contagious virus affecting the lungs and breathing passages that causes an estimated 14,000 deaths annually in adults 65 and over.

"I've always talked about, whether it was HIV, AIDS and now RSV, it's really important that I come to the people," he said of the " Sideline RSV " campaign from GSK, formerly known as GlaxoSmithKline. "It's one thing to do a commercial, it's another thing to be live and in person and shake people's hands and really tell them: 'Look, get your physicals. If you're feeling something, go to the doctor,' because a lot of times what happens, we don't go when we first feel something, right, and RSV, you can be a healthy person and don't even know you have it."

Johnson told the audience that early detection helped him when he was infected with HIV. He said he gets a physical every January and receives recommended vaccinations, with one for RSV now available.

Ben Simmons heads into training camp healthy

NEW YORK (AP)—Ben Simmons is set to begin training camp next week with no restrictions after two injury-shortened seasons in Brooklyn.

If he stays healthy, Simmons may even be able to return to his roots as a point guard.

Nets coach Jacque Vaughn said Tuesday that the former All-Star has been playing 5-on-5 this summer and will have an expanded role offensively if he can avoid further injuries.

Simmons didn't play after the All-Star break last season, slowed by a sore left knee and then shut down early because of a nerve injury in his back. Simmons had largely fallen out of the rotation even before then, with Vaughn now saying he his learned through their discussions this summer that the No. 1 pick in the 2016 draft simply didn't have the strength to do some of the things his coach wanted after undergoing back surgery the previous offseason.

"But the things that I'm asking him to do going forward, I think he can physically do now," Vaughn said.

Simmons still views himself as a lead guard, the position he played while earning three All-Star selections in Philadelphia. He played as a forward or backup center last season in Brooklyn, where Kyrie Irving was the point guard when Simmons arrived in a trade for James Harden in February 2022.

With Irving now in Dallas and Simmons seemingly back at full strength, Vaughn said their agreement is that Simmons will be able to play the way he wants if he shows he can handle it.

"I think if Ben is able to play consistently in a certain way, there's no doubt then that he should have the basketball in his hands," Vaughn said. "You have to guard him with the basketball in his hands."

AP

Brooklyn Nets' Ben Simmons watches practice before an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 10, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Oklahoma City Council sets vote on $900M arena to keep Thunder through 2050

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Oklahoma City Council voted Tuesday to set a Dec. 12 citywide vote on a proposed 1% sales tax for six years that would fund a new $900 million downtown arena and keep the NBA's Thunder in the city through at least 2050.

The council also voted 7-2 to approve a letter of intent with the Thunder's ownership group that would require the group to contribute $50 million toward the arena's cost. The deal also calls for $70 million in city funds from an existing sales tax approved by voters in 2019 for upgrades to the current Paycom Center.

"I commend the Council for authorizing me to sign this historic letter of intent, I thank the Thunder for their partnership and I congratulate all of OKC for getting to this point," Mayor David Holt said in a statement.

Under the plan, the six-year, 1% sales tax would begin April 1, 2028, when the current MAPS 4 sales tax ends so the city's sales tax rate would remain unchanged. The exact location of the new arena has not been determined, but the deal calls for the arena to open in time for the 2029-2030 NBA season.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams (8) dunks in front of Charlotte Hornets' guard Svi Mykhailiuk (10) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, March 28, 2023, in Oklahoma City.

Council members Nikki Nice and JoBeth Hamon opposed both the proposed sales tax and the letter of intent with the Thunder owners.

"This deal was negotiated from a position of fear and scarcity, which benefits those who are wealthy, while the benefits never trickle down to regular folks," Hamon wrote on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

The NBA franchise—which used to be the Seattle SuperSonics—moved to Oklahoma City in 2008.

Wembanyama will be aiming for gold medal with France at Paris Olympics

PARIS (AP)—Victor Wembanyama will be aiming for the gold medal with France at the Paris Olympics.

The San Antonio Spurs rookie reaffirmed his commitment to France's national squad at the Summer Games next year in his home country. He spoke in the wake of France's poor showing at the World Cup last month, where he did not play.

"Performing well at the Olympics would be a great story," Wembanyama told French media. "I'll be present at the Olympics, and there's no other goal than gold."

"The World Cup was very disappointing," he was quoted as saying on Tuesday. "But I have no judgment to make as I wasn't there."

The No. 1 draft pick had decided not to play at the World Cup in order to prepare for his rookie season.

France came to the World Cup as the reigning Olympic silver medalists but failed to qualify for the second round.

Kagman teams win ES soccer matches

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Kagman Elementary School player in blue, tries to maneuver through San Vicente Elementary School defenders during one of their games in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024 at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville on Monday.

Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins' two soccer teams won each of their games in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024 at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville on Monday.

KES 2 showed Brilliant Star School no mercy as they defeated them, 10-2.

The Blue Marlins' Aiden Rangamar was a one-man army as he soldiered the pitch and took on defenders in his path. His swift footwork and ability to read the defense allowed him to score five consecutive unanswered goals in the span of 17 minutes.

BSS did not give up, however, and tried their best to put at least one goal on the board. The Blue Marlins' Dakota Inmar made it 6-0 before BSS' Declan Spaeth found the net in the 6th minute for their first goal. Brayden Brennfleck nipped a second goal four minutes later, for a 2-6 game.

However, Rangamar remained a menace on the pitch as he found the ball again and scored two more goals to put them up, 8-2. It was over for BSS as KES scored two more goals with the clock winding down.

KES then put one more goal over San Vicente Elementary School Canaries, 2-1.

Although SVES drew first blood by way of Aaron Iglecias' goal in the fifth minute, they could not carry that momentum for the rest of the game. The Blue Marlins swiftly tied the game up a minute later from a goal by Benaiah Murphy.

Then, it was all over for the Canaries' run as Astrid Masiwemai took the lead with a goal in the 12th minute. The Canaries could not reply and lost by one goal.

Last Friday, William S. Reyes Elementary School blanked Garapan Elementary School, 4-0; Koblerville Elementary School 2 beat Mount Carmel School, 4-1; KagES and Grace Christian Academy ended in a 2-2 draw; Saipan Community School out goaled Eucon International School, 9-0; SVES 2 trounced BSS 2, 9-2; and GES 2 nipped KagES 2, 7-3.

In last Wednesday's games, WSR pummeled MCS, 12-0; Saipan International School heavily defeated Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 13-3; GCA blanked SVES, 4-0; KobES won over BSS 2 via forfeit; GES defeated GTC 2, 2-0; and BSS beat MCS 2, 6-3.

China sweeps through gold medals on opening day of Asian Games

HANGZHOU, China (AP)—China has dominated the Asian Games for the last 40 years, and the 2023 edition will be the same.

The host country won 20 gold medals—30 overall—on Sunday, just hours after Saturday's opening ceremony overseen by President Xi Jinping and watched by 80,000 at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium.

The first gold medal of the games went to the Chinese pair of Zhou Jiaqi and Qiu Xinping in women's lightweight double sculls. The Chinese rolled from there and many are already looking ahead to next year's Olympics in Paris.

"Stepping on to the podium today is a new starting point," Qiu said. "To prepare for next year's Paris Olympics with all our strength is equivalent to starting from scratch."

Added teammate Zhou: "This can help us build self-confidence and help us prepare."

Two other gold medals on the first day went to Hong Kong, in men's pairs in rowing, and in men's individual foil in fencing.

Hong Kong, a former British colony, was returned to Chinese rule in 1997 and has come under increasingly tight control from Beijing following months of pro-democracy protests in 2019.

China won gold in modern pentathlon (2), artistic gymnastics (1), rowing (6), shooting (2), wushu (2) and swimming (7).

Zhang Yufei won the women's 200 butterfly, the same event she won two months ago at the world championships in Fukuoka, Japan.

"I actually felt the pool was a little slow for me," she said. "And I told my coach that I wasn't feeling in good form or I could have gone faster."

Wang Shun took the men's 200 IM, and Li Bingjie won the women's 1,500.

South Korea won five gold medals on the first day and 14 overall to trail China in second place. South Korea won two gold medals in modern pentathlon, two more in taekwondo, and one in fencing.

PAIRE

From page 20

the net—and escaped with the win as time ran out.

Matansa, on the other hand, made it a 4-1 win against Shirley's.

While Paire and Kanoa had a lifeless first half, Matansa came out bustling with the first kick. Just five minutes into the match, Yuri Fukushi snagged a goal, followed by another by Jenna Tenorio. In no time, it was 2-0 in favor of Matansa.

The second half started with still no goals by Shirley's. Matansa then scored some insurance goals by way of Pinyarat Shankweiler, and another from Mikaela Duenas. Only one goal made by Amy Cabrera came in for Shirley's at this point, and that was all they could muster as they settled for the loss.

In other results, Paire 2 ended their game against MP United 1 in a 1-1 draw; and MP United 2 put up one against Latte FC.

Novice division

Matansa FC is racking up wins as they also won in the novice division against Kanoa, 5-1.

Elaine Sablan led the offensive through the pitch and in just five minutes, penetrated Kanoa's defenses for an early 1-0 lead. She found an opening again two minutes later and made it 2-0. The first half came and went quietly until a third goal was made in the 31st minute by Tioni Alvarez.

Leilani Pangelinan finally put Kanoa up on the board in the 40th minute for a 1-3 game. However, Kanoa was quickly shut down as Matansa stopped them on their tracks. Matansa scored two more goals and won as Kanoa had no more goals in them.

In other results, Latte FC won against Paire FC, 2-1; and MP United blanked Shirley's, 4-0.

ACS

From page 20

ever, I told the girls after the first set that the first set was their loss, not GCA's win because they were the ones making the errors to give GCA the points. I told them to focus and clean up their play and also to make better decisions. The result of that is clear from the play in the second and third sets."

However, "the next two sets can only be described as nothing short of a miracle," said Pang. ACS positioned themselves perfectly against a barrage of kills and spikes from Fatialofa—and it paid off. After they had neutralized GCA's mainstay, the rest fell into place for ACS.

Although the Lady Eagles tried to fend off ACS' run for a tie-breaking third set, ACS slipped two crucial points in to take the second set, 21-19.

As ACS finally took the game in the longest tie-breaking third set of the season, 18-16, Pang said "It is a really great feeling. GCA is the most decorated team in high school girls' volleyball, and taking even a set, much less the entire game, off of them is extremely difficult."

He added that the girls and their supporters largely had already given up much hope after the first set, but "The girls especially began to pray to God saying that they cannot beat GCA on their own and that they needed His help… I definitely feel relief that we have a chance this year. It is anybody's championship to win, and that alone makes it worthwhile to play well."

He said of the game, it "really taught the girls that they are capable of mounting comeback wins and that as long the game is not yet over, they still have a chance."

Pang gave a nod to GCA head coach Cesar Libut and said although their core group of super volleyball players had graduated, "I dared not underestimate GCA because coach Cesar is a great coach, and I knew he would have the ability to train his newer girls to be great players as well. I told my girls that no matter the result, we will have to fight for every point. But I told them that if we are to lose, we must make GCA work for every point as well. I also told them that their desire to win will play a huge factor in the results of the game."

In other games, Mount Carmel School fought a tough three-set game and pulled the second upset of the night against Saipan International School, 25-23, 14-21, 15-11.

SIS II fell to ACS II, 21-9, 4-21, 15-11; Saipan Southern High School won their first game of the season against Kagman High School, 16-21, 21-10, 15-8; and KHS II won over MHS III, 21-7, 16-21, 16-14.

The only two-set game was between MCS II and SSHS II, with the former taking the win, 21-17, 21-19.

LIGHTS

From page 20

the second. The lead teetered to and fro both teams—with CUC's on-point passing game and with the Feds' high percentage shots from the paint.

The Feds caught up to CUC in no time thanks to Leo Apelo as he led the charge with his side steps, leaps, and bounds toward the basket. His sizeable frame was deceitful as he lumbered quickly—and outpaced CUC defenders in his path. Apelo was complemented by a smaller, yet twice as speedy Terence Leung—and together, they were a force to be reckoned with.

The Feds then led by just 2 points, 27-25, heading into the third quarter, but the little half time break to recuperate carried them to a sufficient enough lead in the end. As the Feds recharged for an electric second half, CUC's battery sputtered, sparked up, then died.

Though CUC's Franko Nakamura put up 13 points, while Fredrick Dionisio and Trey Aikens mirrored each other with 11 points through the game, only 7 points were made in the third quarter.

The Feds' blocking ability and tight screens caused CUC to make hasty and inaccurate shots—and reduced them to less than half of their shooting percentage.

Apelo finished with a game high 30 points, with 17 markers from Leung, and an additional 13 markers from Jeffrey Che.

In Monday's games, MarPac won via an 81-54 blowout against CHCC; and team Office of the Governor trumped Docomo, 75-53.

Federals 65 – Apelo 30, Leung 17, Che 13, Angeles 3, Sablan 2.

CUC 49 – Nakamura 13, Dionisio 11, Aikens 11, Lopaka 6, Tudela 4, Malwelbug 2, Mikhel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 27-25, 45-32, 65-49.

Tribune Sports Scores

GOVT/BIZ LEAGUE STANDINGS

MarPac	3	0
Joeten	2	0
Priority Care	2	1
Office of the Governor	2	0
Docomo	1	1
PSS	1	1
CPA	1	2
Federals	1	2
CUC	0	3
CHCC	0	3

Brewers lose 4-1 to Cardinals, but get help from Braves to clinch NL Central.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kagman teams win ES soccer matches.

PAGE 19

ACS halts GCA's undefeated run in girls v-ball

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School I volleyball team poses for group photo with their coach, En Yang Pang, far right, after their win against Grace Christian Academy in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium Tuesday.

LEIGH GASES

Mount Carmel School's Mia Abuan goes for a spike during their three-set win against Saipan International School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium Tuesday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a whirlwind night of great upsets, Agape Christian School Torchbearers labored mightily to land a comeback win after a spectacular, three-set showdown against the erstwhile undefeated Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles in the continuation of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024.

The Marianas High School Gymnasium was shaken to its core Tuesday night when the Torchbearers handed the six-time defending champion Lady Eagles their first loss in the regular season that predates the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many teams came close to toppling the perch the Lady Eagles firmly stood on, but it was ACS' rotation of Jessica Chen, Lucy Hong, Elim Huang, Emma Pang, Barbara Wang, Sunny Wang, Esther Zhao, and Mary Zhu that dealt the knockout blow.

After a disastrous first set, 7-21, morale was understandably low for the En Yang Pang-coached ACS team. Although they had practiced a strategy to try and stop GCA star player Azriel Fatailofa, it came down to ACS' execution. ACS focused on trying to soften her attacks so they could return her spikes—because they knew that if they could neutralize her, GCA's main threat was gone.

About their first set, Pang said "We couldn't stop any of her spikes, and our serves and receives were horrible. How-

See ACS on Page 19

Lights out for CUC in inter gov't/biz caging

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Federals hit the 1-2 punch and it was lights out for CUC in their Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 game last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Although the two could not be separated far enough with a give and take of points in the first half, the Feds pulled away in the last two quarters for a 65-49 win.

CUC actually had the upper hand in the first quarter and led by 4 points by the end of it, 16-12, but the Feds quickly gained traction in

See LIGHTS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Federals' Leo Apelo goes for a layup during their game against CUC in the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Tuesday.

Paire 1, Matansa win in intermediate women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club 1 and Matansa FC won their games in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire won against Kanoa, 1-0. Both teams were evenly matched throughout the first half as each kick and attempt resulted in nothing but air or were out of bounds. It became a race to who could score a goal and take the win as time wound down.

The second half kicked in and still no goals were made. Finally, in the 41st minute, Paire's Terra Allen found an opening and made it a 1-0 game. Paire's defenses held up and extinguished Kanoa's last-minute attacks at

See PAIRE on Page 19

NMIFA

Paire's Kathy Ruszala, center, paces a Kanoa player in orange during their game in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Fall 2023 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.